THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
Fantastic Four
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND.
25 APR.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
THIS IS THE BIG ONE! "THE INCREDIBLE HULK VERSUS The THING!"
A MARVEL SUPER-SPECTACULAR!
PAGE AFTER PAGE OF PULSE-POUNDING THRILLS!!
BRINGING THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS TO A LOFTY NEW PINNACLE OF GREATNESS!
THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY!

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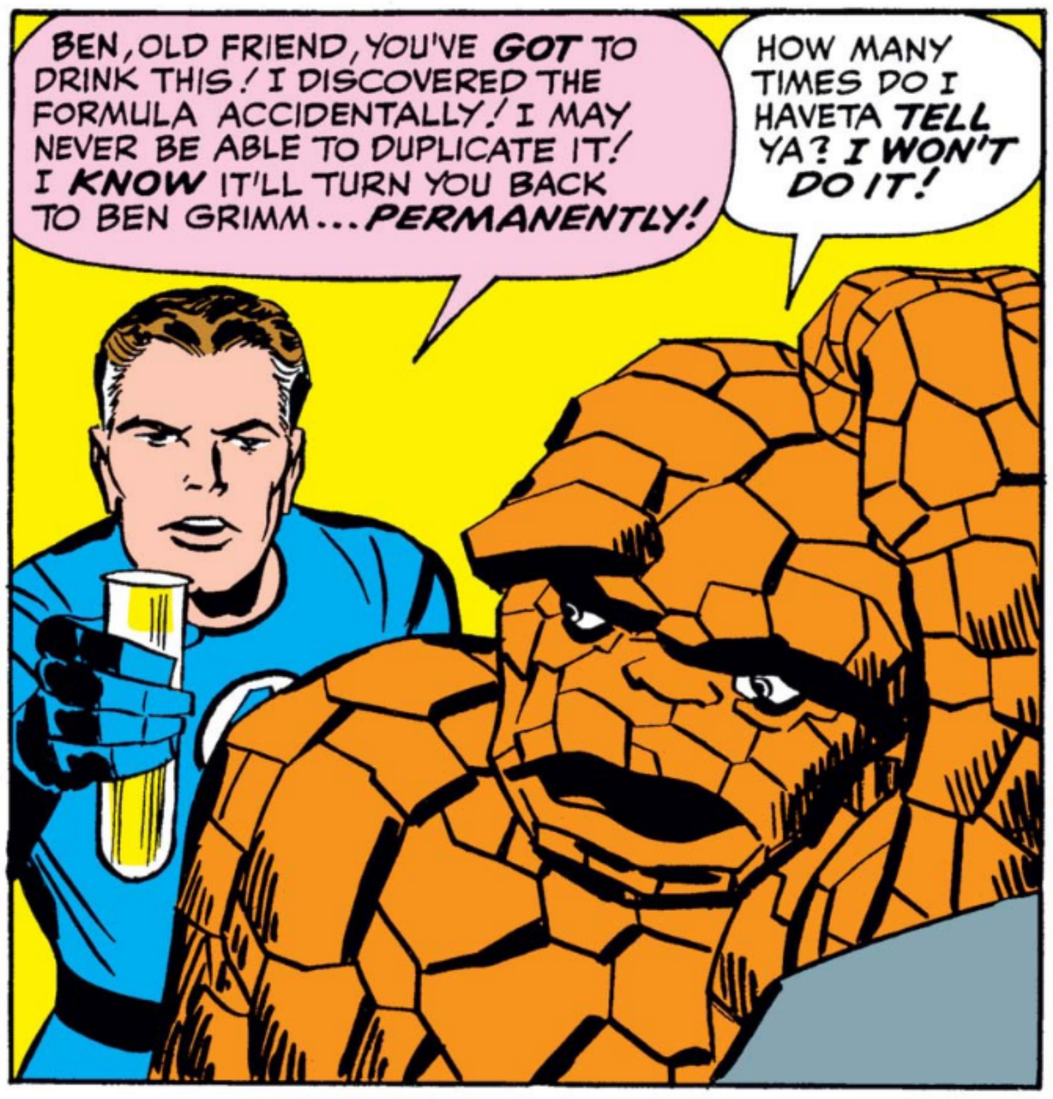
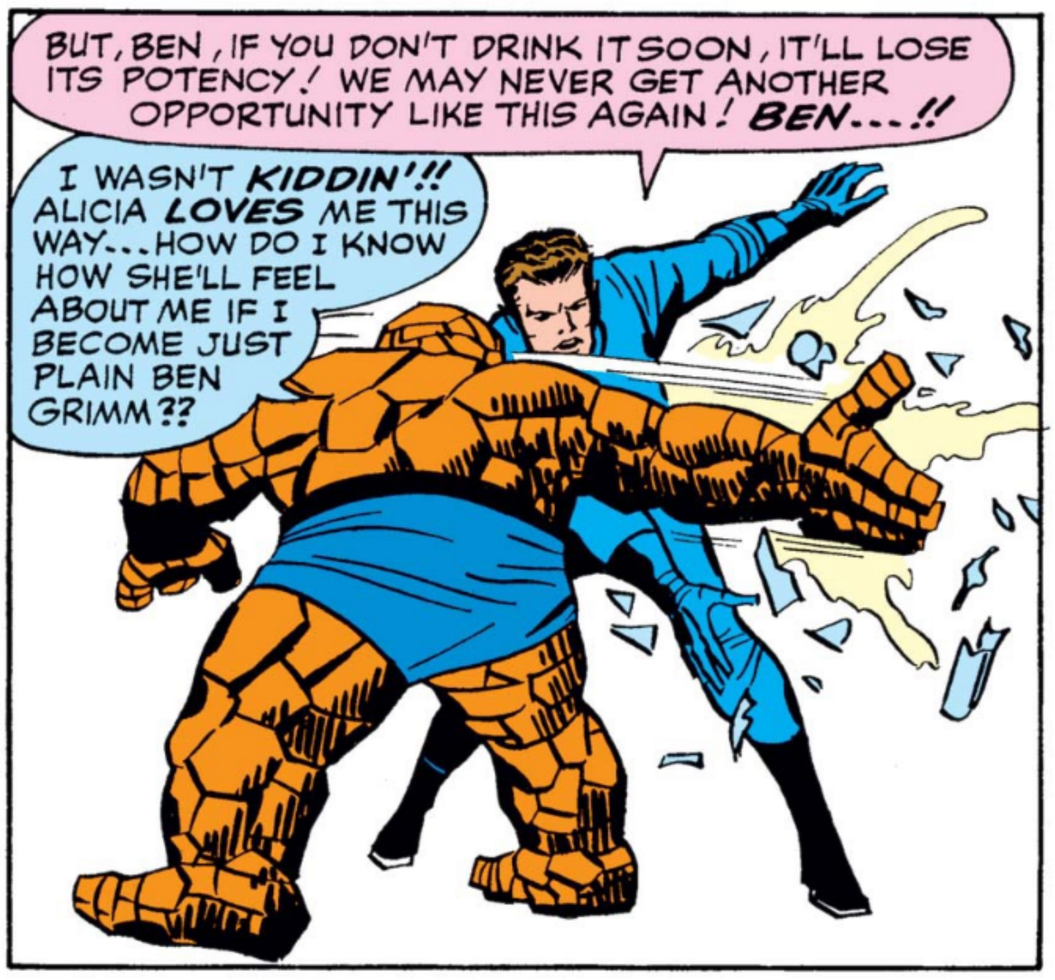
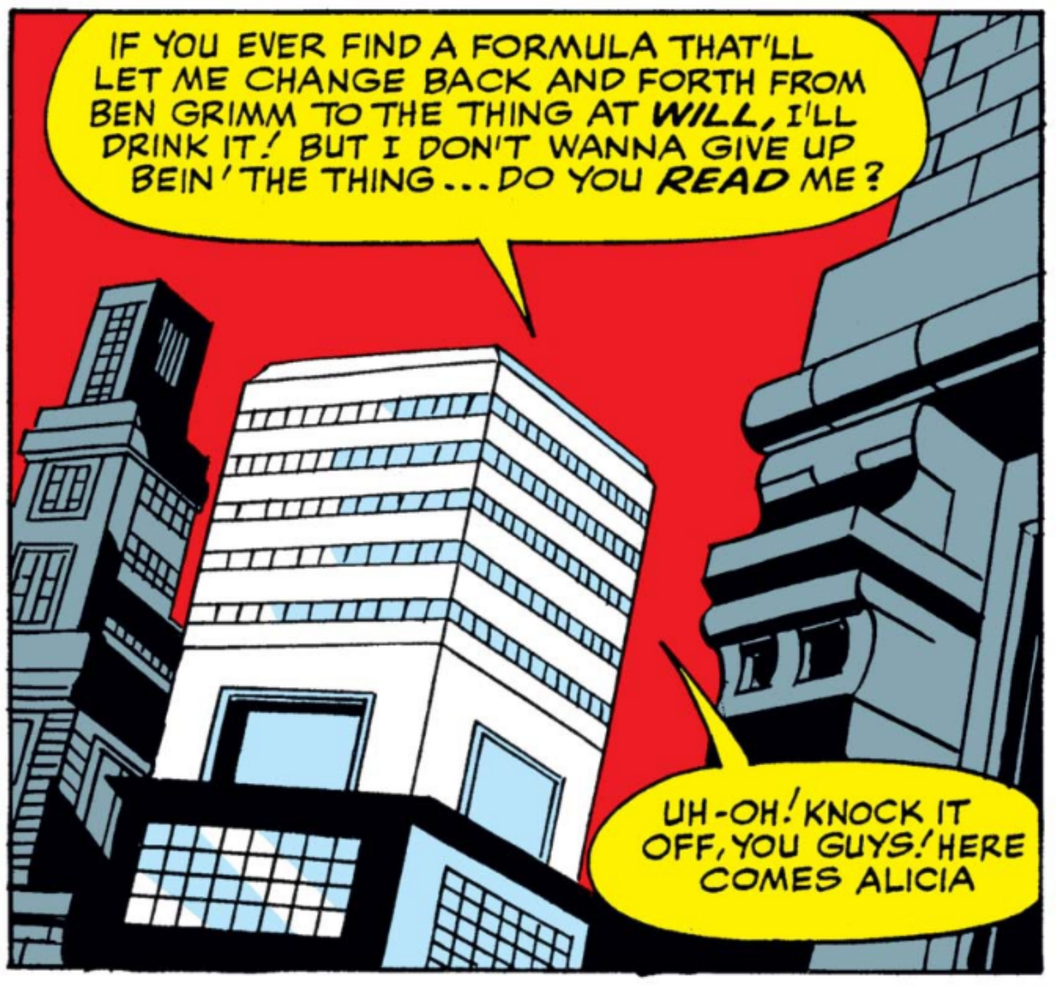
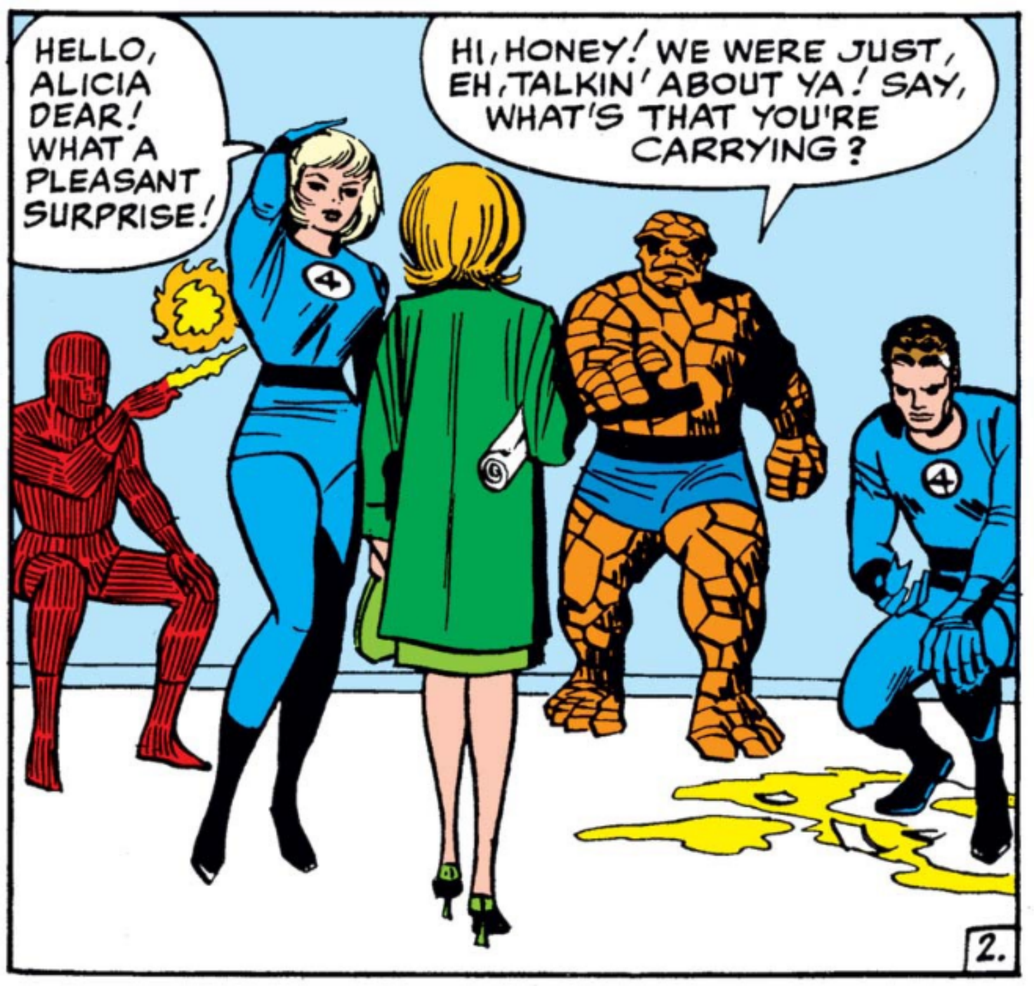

BEN, OLD FRIEND, YOU'VE GOT TO DRINK THIS! I DISCOVERED THE FORMULA ACCIDENTALLY! I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE IT! I KNOW IT'LL TURN YOU BACK TO BEN GRIMM... PERMANENTLY!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVETA TELL YA? I WON'T DO IT!

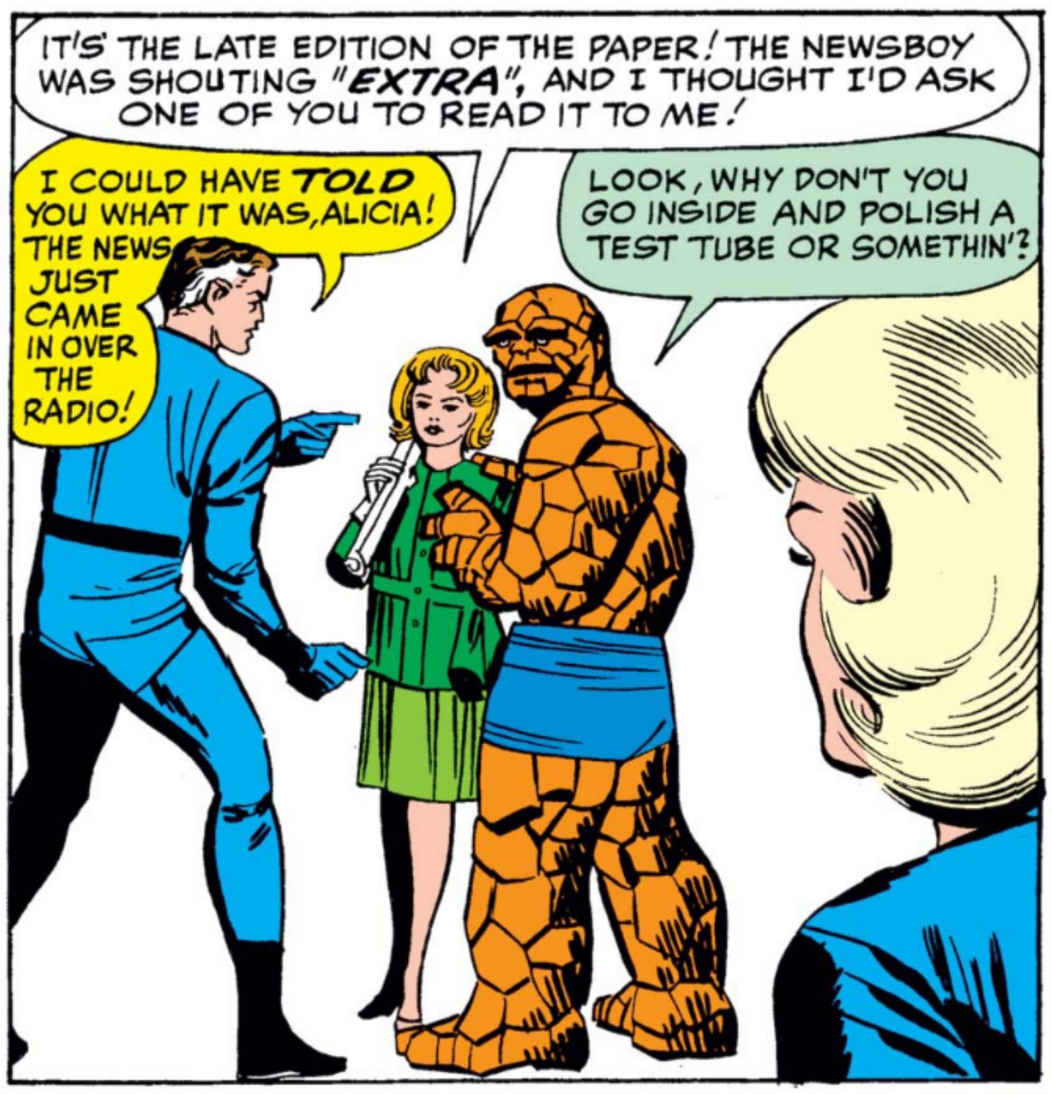
THINK WHAT REED IS DOING FOR YOU, BEN! IF YOU STOP BEING THE THING, WE LOSE ONE FOURTH OF OUR STRENGTH! AND STILL HE WANTS YOU TO DRINK IT!
I WONDER WHY THE THING IS SO STUBBORN?
I'M WARNIN' YA... STOP BUGGIN' ME!


BUT, BEN, IF YOU DON'T DRINK IT SOON, IT'LL LOSE ITS POTENCY! WE MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS AGAIN! BEN...!!
I WASN'T KIDDIN'!! ALICIA LOVES ME THIS WAY... HOW DO I KNOW HOW SHE'LL FEEL ABOUT ME IF I BECOME JUST PLAIN BEN GRIMM??

YOU MULE-HEADED NITWIT!! IT ISN'T YOUR RIDICULOUS APPEARANCE SHE LOVES... IT'S YOU!... ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SEE WHY!!
OKAY, OKAY! MY PERSONAL LIFE IS ONE THING YOU AIN'T GONNA BUTT INTO... AND DON'T FORGET IT, BIG MAN!

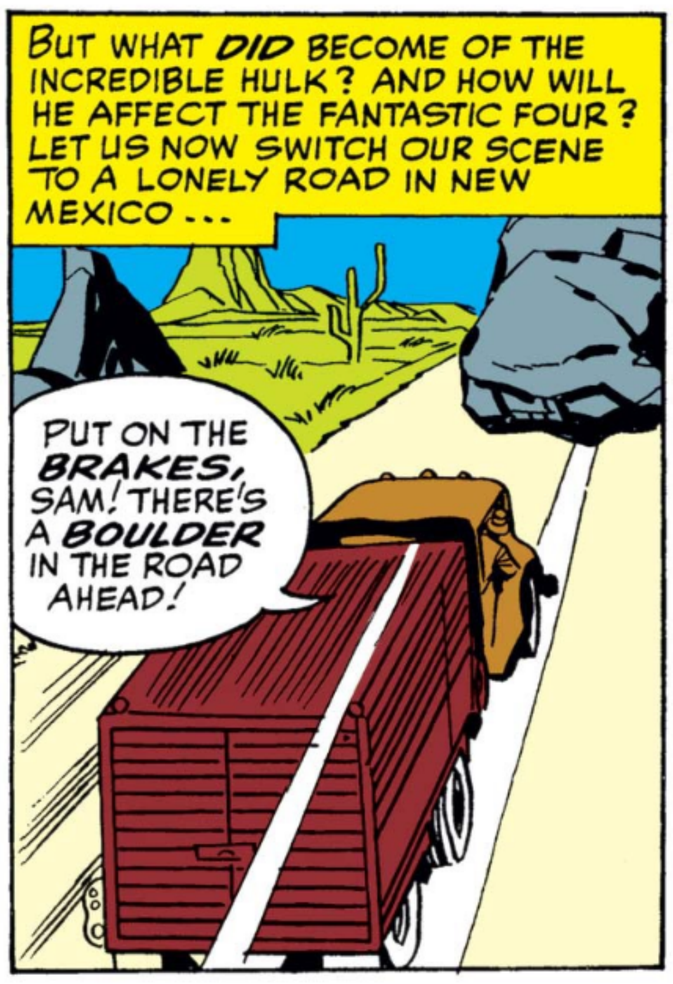

IF YOU EVER FIND A FORMULA THAT'LL LET ME CHANGE BACK AND FORTH FROM BEN GRIMM TO THE THING AT WILL, I'LL DRINK IT! BUT I DON'T WANNA GIVE UP BEIN' THE THING... DO YOU READ ME?
UH-OH! KNOCK IT OFF, YOU GUYS! HERE COMES ALICIA

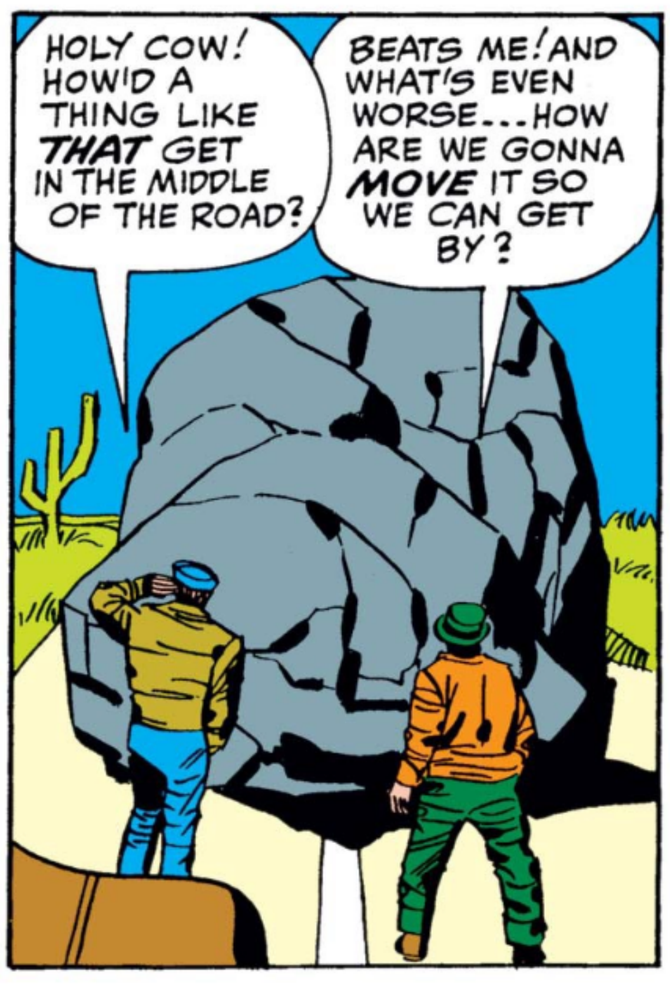

HELLO, ALICIA DEAR! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
HI, HONEY! WE WERE JUST, EH, TALKIN' ABOUT YA! SAY, WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE CARRYING?


IT'S THE LATE EDITION OF THE PAPER! THE NEWSBOY WAS SHOUTING "EXTRA", AND I THOUGHT I'D ASK ONE OF YOU TO READ IT TO ME!
I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU WHAT IT WAS, ALICIA! THE NEWS JUST CAME IN OVER THE RADIO!
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GO INSIDE AND POLISH A TEST TUBE OR SOMETHIN'?

LET ME HAVE IT, DEAR... I'LL READ IT TO YOU! OH... IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HULK!
YEAH! CAPTAIN AMERICA TOOK HIS PLACE IN THE AVENGERS!
POST-BULLETIN
AVENGERS RETURN TO U.S., SEEK HULK HERE AFTER EPIC BATTLE OVERSEAS!
HULK VANISHES AS CAPTAIN AMERICA REPLACES HIM IN RANKS OF AVENGERS!
EXTRA

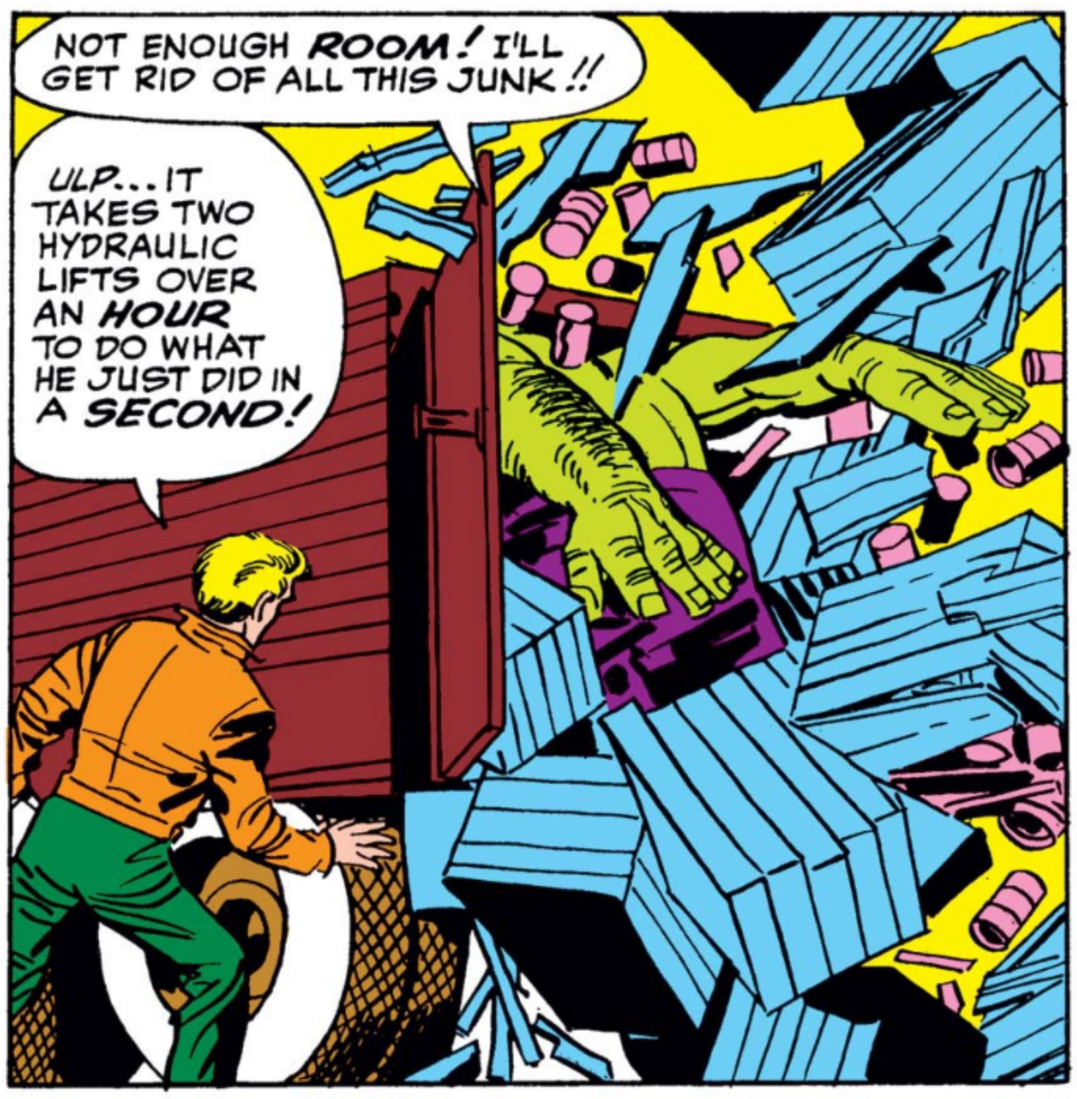
IMAGINE! EVEN THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE AVENGERS COULDN'T STOP THE HULK!* IT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS JUST TO READ ABOUT HIM!
* REFER TO THE AVENGERS #3, "THE HULK AND SUB-MARINER!" — EDITOR.


BUT WHAT DID BECOME OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK? AND HOW WILL HE AFFECT THE FANTASTIC FOUR? LET US NOW SWITCH OUR SCENE TO A LONELY ROAD IN NEW MEXICO...
PUT ON THE BRAKES, SAM! THERE'S A BOULDER IN THE ROAD AHEAD!


HOLY COW! HOW'D A THING LIKE THAT GET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD?
BEATS ME! AND WHAT'S EVEN WORSE... HOW ARE WE GONNA MOVE IT SO WE CAN GET BY?

SUDDENLY...
I'LL MOVE IT!... LIKE THIS!!
IT..IT'S THE HULK!!

I WANT A LIFT! LET ME RIDE IN YOUR TRUCK AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE!!
S-SURE! WE GOT LOTS OF ROOM!
YEAH! WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!! H-HONEST!

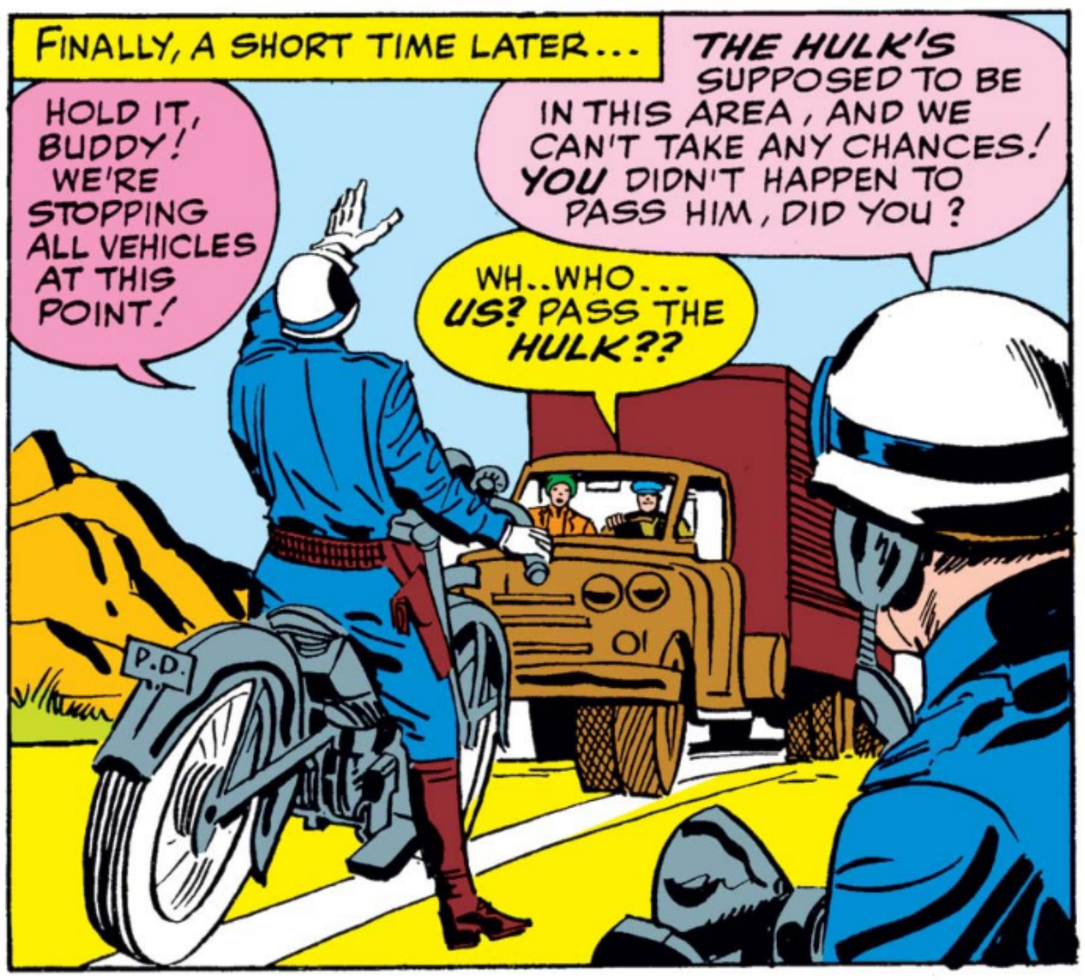

NOT ENOUGH ROOM! I'LL GET RID OF ALL THIS JUNK!!
ULP... IT TAKES TWO HYDRAULIC LIFTS OVER AN HOUR TO DO WHAT HE JUST DID IN A SECOND!

SAM, WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WHAT IF WE COME TO A ROAD BLOCK?
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER! RIGHT NOW, JUST DRIVE LIKE YOU GOT A LIVE ATOM BOMB BACK THERE... BECAUSE WE PRACTICALLY DO!!

AND, IN THE REAR OF THE TRUCK, THE INCREDIBLE HULK LIES SILENTLY, WRAPPED IN HIS OWN STRANGE THOUGHTS... UNTIL...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?? I FEEL... DIFFERENT!

FEEL WEAKER!! CHANGING! OH NO... I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE... NO!!!

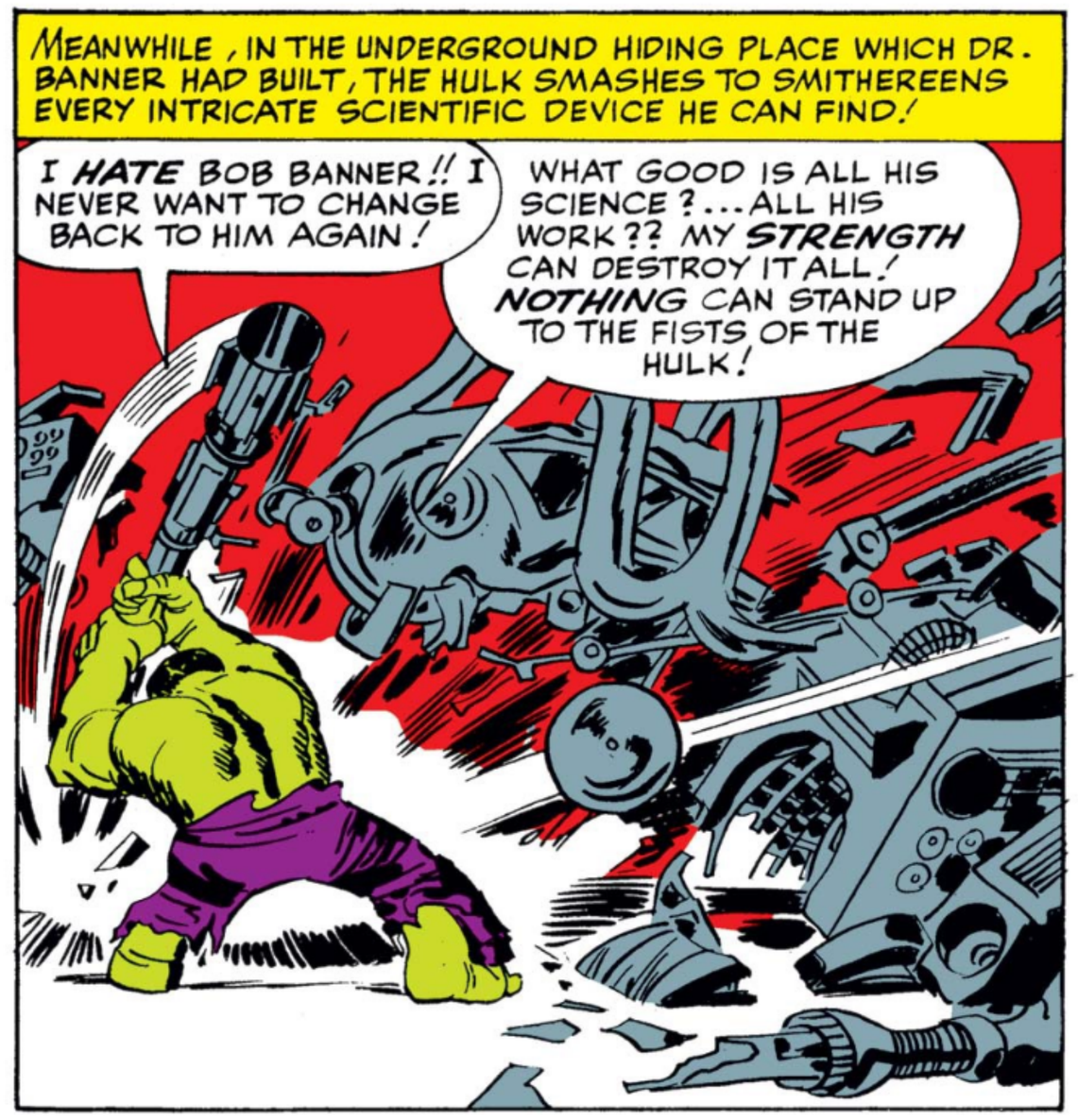
CAN'T STOP MYSELF! TOO LATE! I..I'M BECOMING BOB BANNER AGAIN...MY LIMITLESS STRENGTH... IT'S LEAVING ME!!


FINALLY, A SHORT TIME LATER...
HOLD IT, BUDDY! WE'RE STOPPING ALL VEHICLES AT THIS POINT!
THE HULK'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS AREA, AND WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO PASS HIM, DID YOU?
WH..WHO... US? PASS THE HULK??
P.D.

WAIT! LOOK... SOMEONE JUST RAN OUT OF THE BACK OF THE TRUCK! HE'S HEADING FOR THE HILLS!
LET HIM GO, JOE! HE'S JUST A BUM... MUSTA SNEAKED INTO THE TRUCK AT THEIR LAST STOP! HE'S NOT WHAT WE'RE AFTER!

AND, AS THE TRUCK DRIVERS STARE, SPEECHLESS, AT THE RETREATING FIGURE OF THE SLENDER MAN WHO FLEES FROM THE VEHICLE THAT THE HULK HAD OCCUPIED, DR. BOB BANNER, ALL BUT UNRECOGNIZABLE, STUMBLES ALONG THE ROCKY CRAGS LEADING TO THE HULK'S UNDER-GROUND HIDEOUT!
I'VE GOT TO REACH THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER...FIND RICK.. HE CAN HELP ME!
WHERE THE HULK IS TIRELESS, BOB BANNER IS EXHAUSTED! WHERE THE HULK SHUNS HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP, BOB BANNER NEEDS THE HELP OF THE ONE TEEN-AGER WHO SHARES HIS AWESOME SECRET!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHY DO I CHANGE SO OFTEN ?? WHY CAN'T I CONTROL THE CHANGES?
THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME I'LL HAVE THE IDENTITY OF BOB BANNER...FOR THE CHANGES KEEP COMING MORE OFTEN...AND EACH TIME THE HULK GETS STRONGER!! IN FACT I CAN FEEL MYSELF CHANGING NOW!!
I KNOW IT NOW... THE HULK IS THE MASTER... THE DOMINANT ONE! AND THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE! NO ONE ON EARTH IS AS STRONG AS THE HULK...! NO ONE!!
ONLY THE HULK HAS LEG MUSCLES SO STRONG THAT WHEN I JUMP INTO THE AIR, THEY PUSH ME HARD ENOUGH TO LEAP FOR MILES!!
THERE'S WHAT I'M AFTER!! MY UNDERGROUND CAVE!! THE HULK IS HOME AT LAST!!
MEANTIME, THE POWERFUL AVENGERS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE DAMAGE-STUDDED TRAIL OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK...AND JUST A FEW MILES AWAY...
ONLY THE HULK COULD HAVE DONE THIS! HE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!
LET'S GET BACK TO THE HELICOPTER WHILE THE TRAIL IS STILL WARM!
BUT WHY WOULD HE HAVE STREWN ALL THESE HEAVY CRATES ALONG THE ROAD?
5.

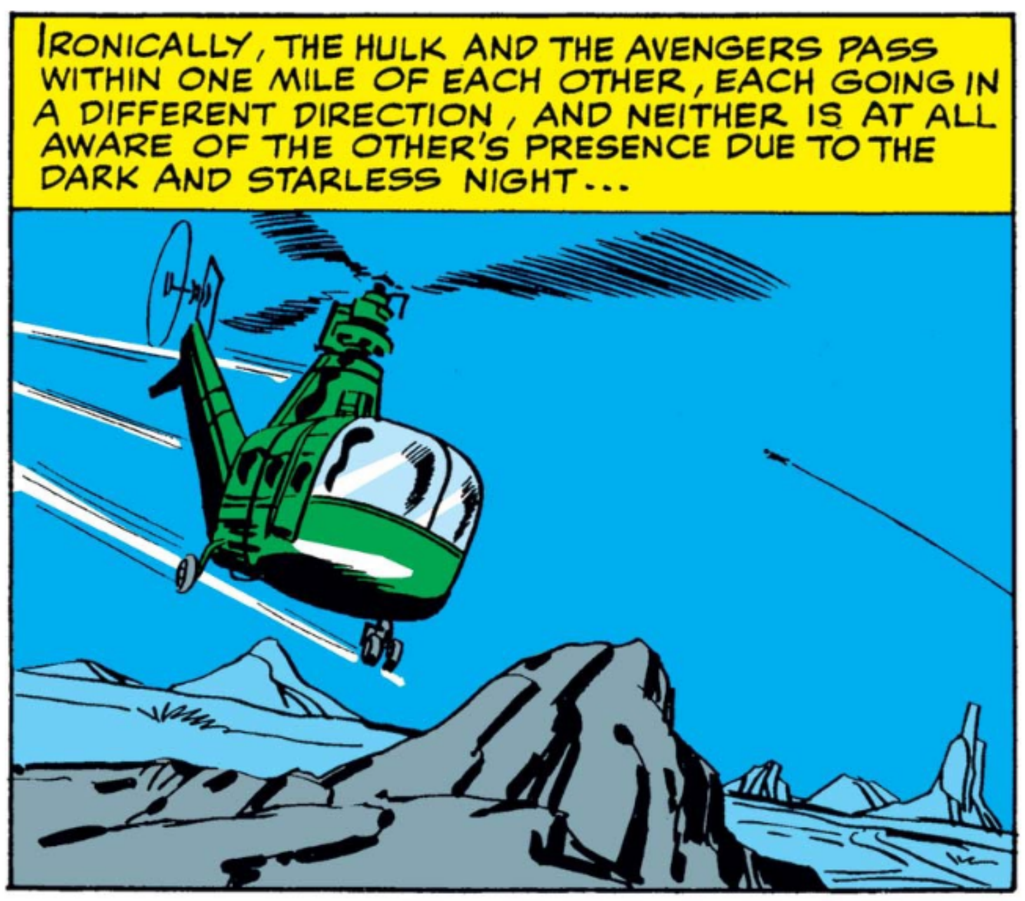
HE MUST BE HEADING FOR HIS SECRET UNDERGROUND LAB!
LAB?? YOU MAKE HIM SOUND LIKE A SCIENTIST, RICK!
DON'T ASK ME ANY MORE! I CAN'T TELL YOU! I..I'VE SWORN NEVER TO REVEAL HIS SECRET...NO MATTER WHAT!


MEANWHILE, IN THE UNDERGROUND HIDING PLACE WHICH DR. BANNER HAD BUILT, THE HULK SMASHES TO SMITHEREENS EVERY INTRICATE SCIENTIFIC DEVICE HE CAN FIND!
I HATE BOB BANNER!! I NEVER WANT TO CHANGE BACK TO HIM AGAIN!
WHAT GOOD IS ALL HIS SCIENCE?...ALL HIS WORK?? MY STRENGTH CAN DESTROY IT ALL! NOTHING CAN STAND UP TO THE FISTS OF THE HULK!

I'LL EMPTY MY POCKETS... GET RID OF EVERY LAST TRACE OF BOB BANNER! BANNER IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE HULK!

WHAT'S THIS? A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING! WHY DID BANNER CARRY IT?
IT MENTIONS THE AVENGERS! THEY'VE REPLACED ME...WITH SOMEONE NAMED CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THAT'S WHY RICK ISN'T HERE!! HE'S DESERTED ME, TOO! BUT NO ONE DOES THAT TO THE HULK!
I'LL GO BACK TO NEW YORK.. I'LL DESTROY THE AVENGERS FOREVER!

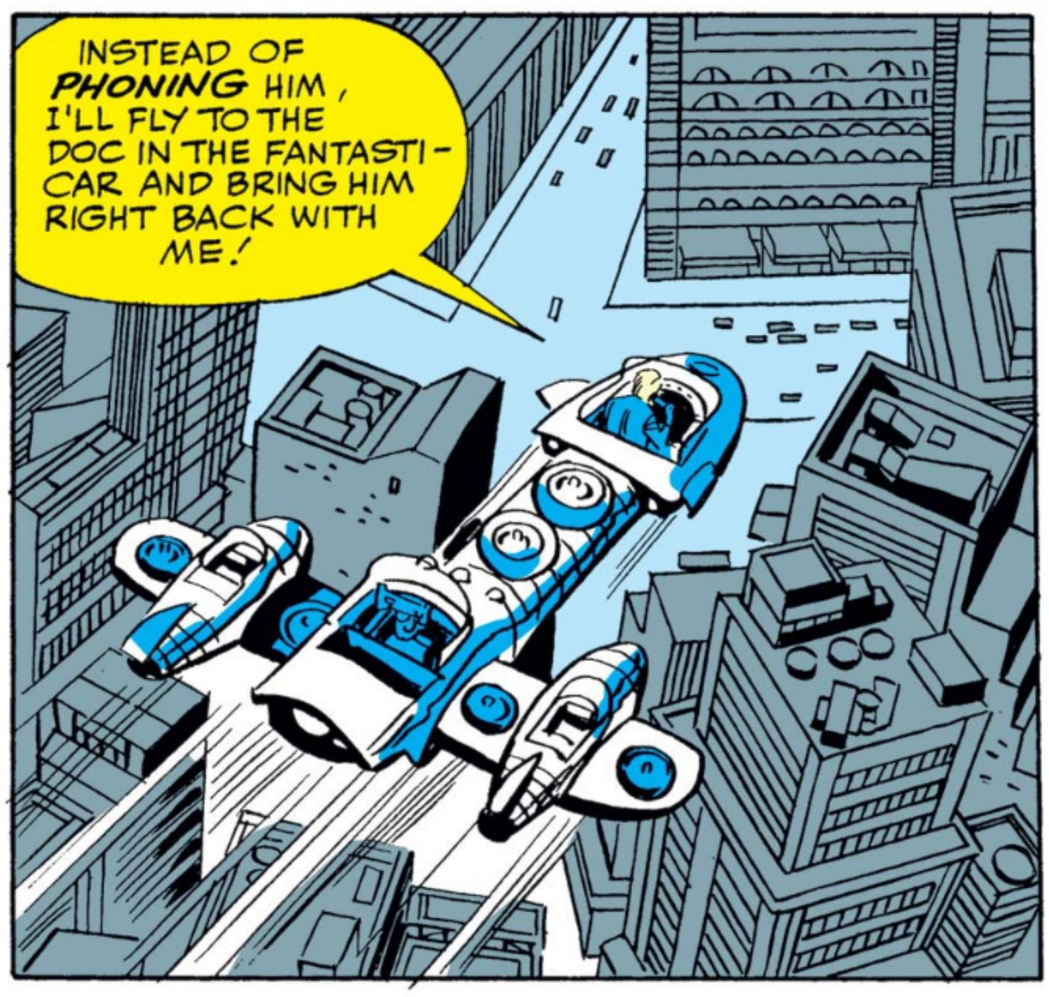

IRONICALLY, THE HULK AND THE AVENGERS PASS WITHIN ONE MILE OF EACH OTHER, EACH GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION, AND NEITHER IS AT ALL AWARE OF THE OTHER'S PRESENCE DUE TO THE DARK AND STARLESS NIGHT...

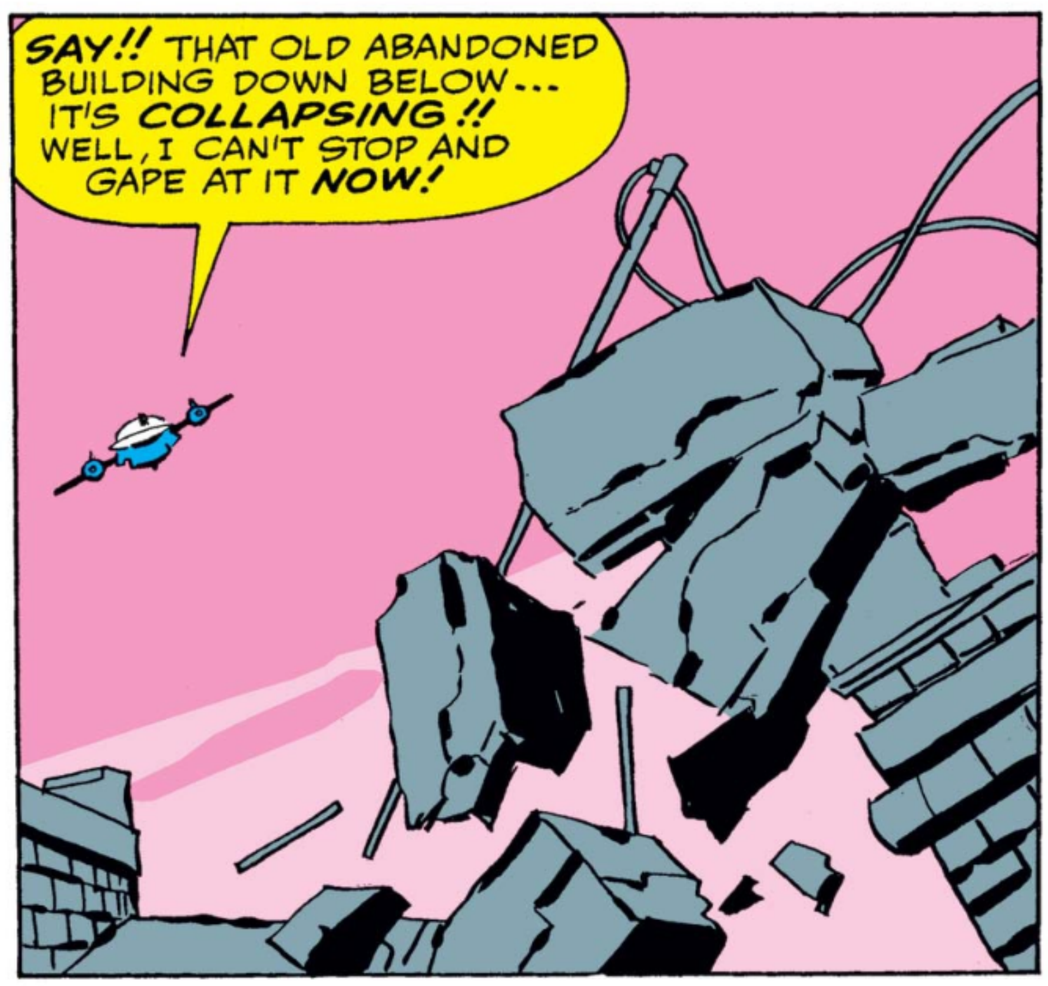
MILE AFTER ENDLESS MILE THE TIRELESS HULK COVERS IN POWERFUL, DISTANCE-SWALLOWING LEAPS, UNTIL, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER...
NEW YORK AT LAST! NOW FOR THE AVENGERS... AND MY FINAL REVENGE!

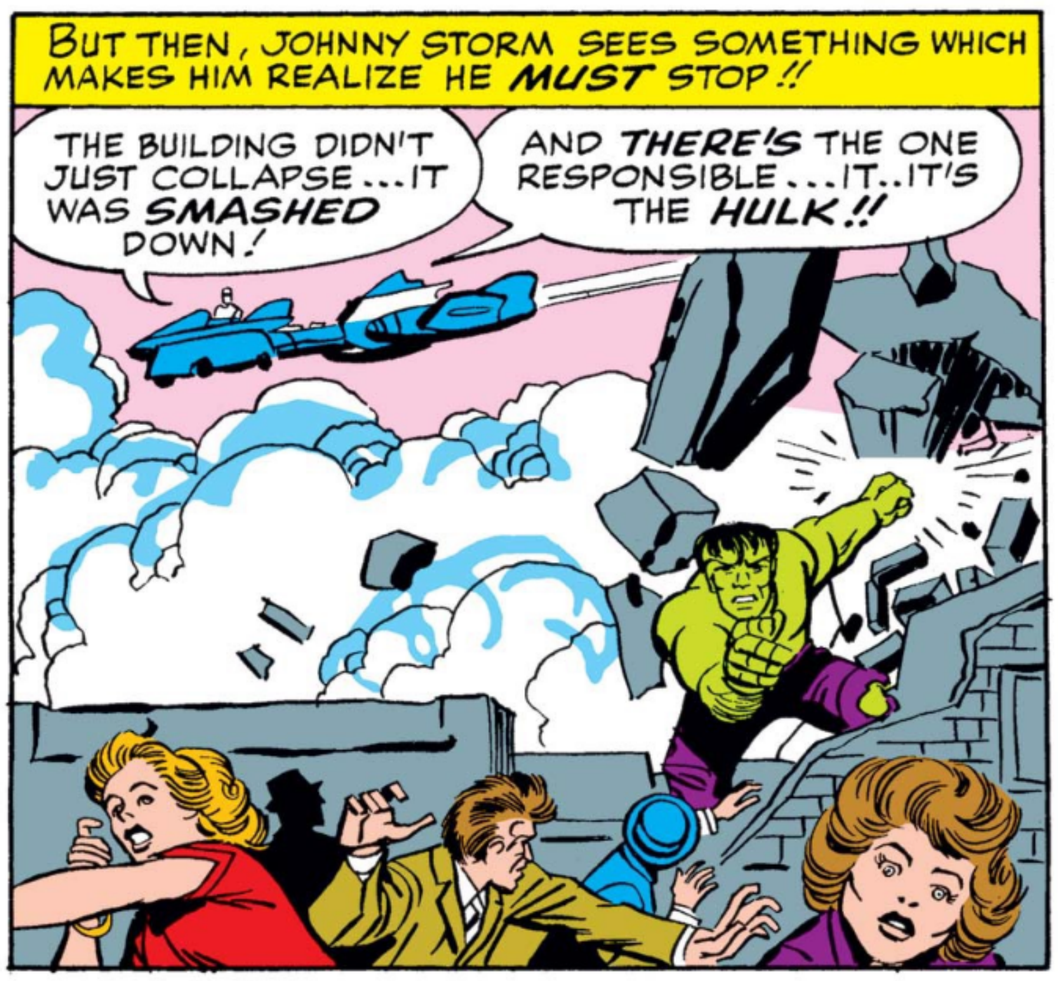
AT THAT MOMENT...
BEN! JOHNNY! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO REED!

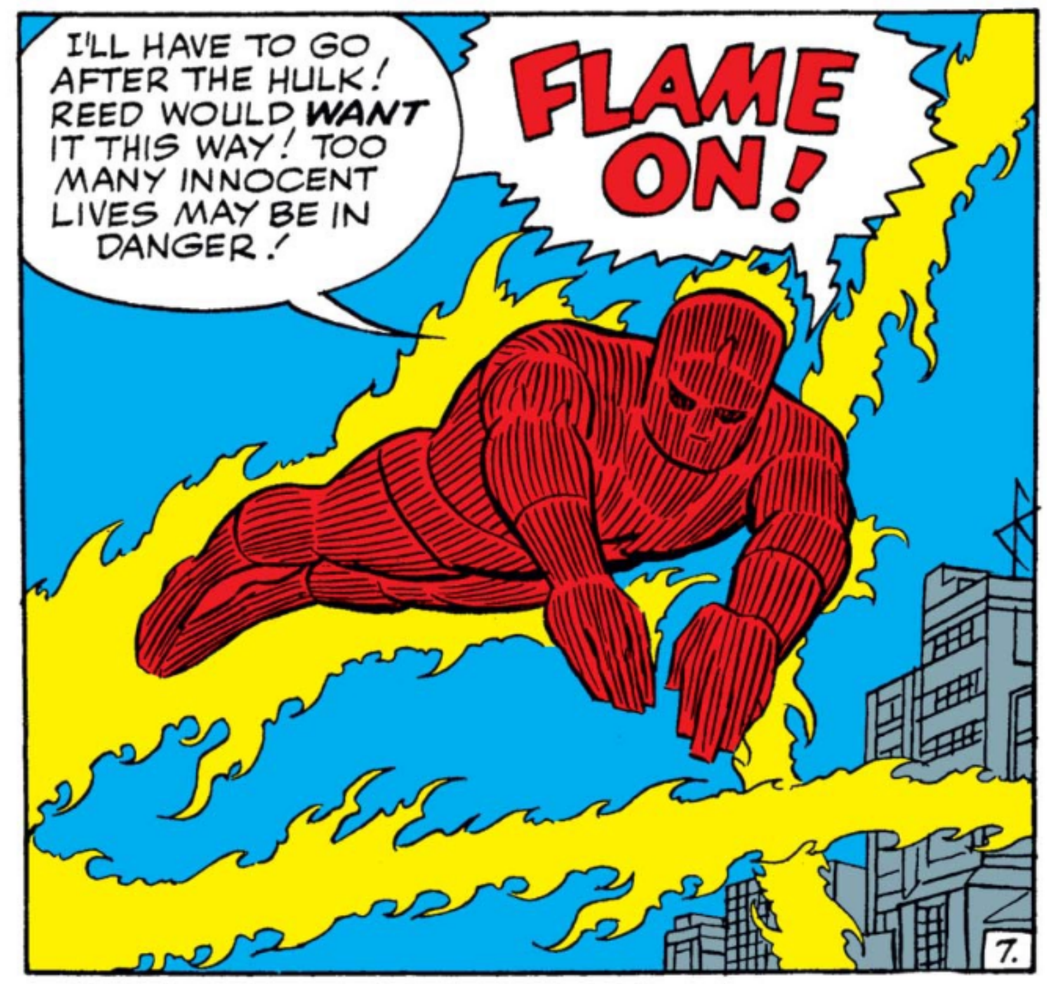
WHAT IS IT, BEN? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
I DUNNO, KID! BUT HE'S IN A COMA... AND HE FEELS LIKE HE'S BURNIN' WITH FEVER!
HE'S BEEN WORKING WITH VIRUSES...I WONDER..?

REED! MY DARLING! SPEAK TO ME!! NO USE... HE DOESN'T HEAR! JOHNNY...GET A DOCTOR..FAST!
C'MON, STRINGBEAN! DON'T SCARE US LIKE THIS, HEAR?


INSTEAD OF PHONING HIM, I'LL FLY TO THE DOC IN THE FANTASTI-CAR AND BRING HIM RIGHT BACK WITH ME!


SAY!! THAT OLD ABANDONED BUILDING DOWN BELOW... IT'S COLLAPSING!! WELL, I CAN'T STOP AND GAPE AT IT NOW!

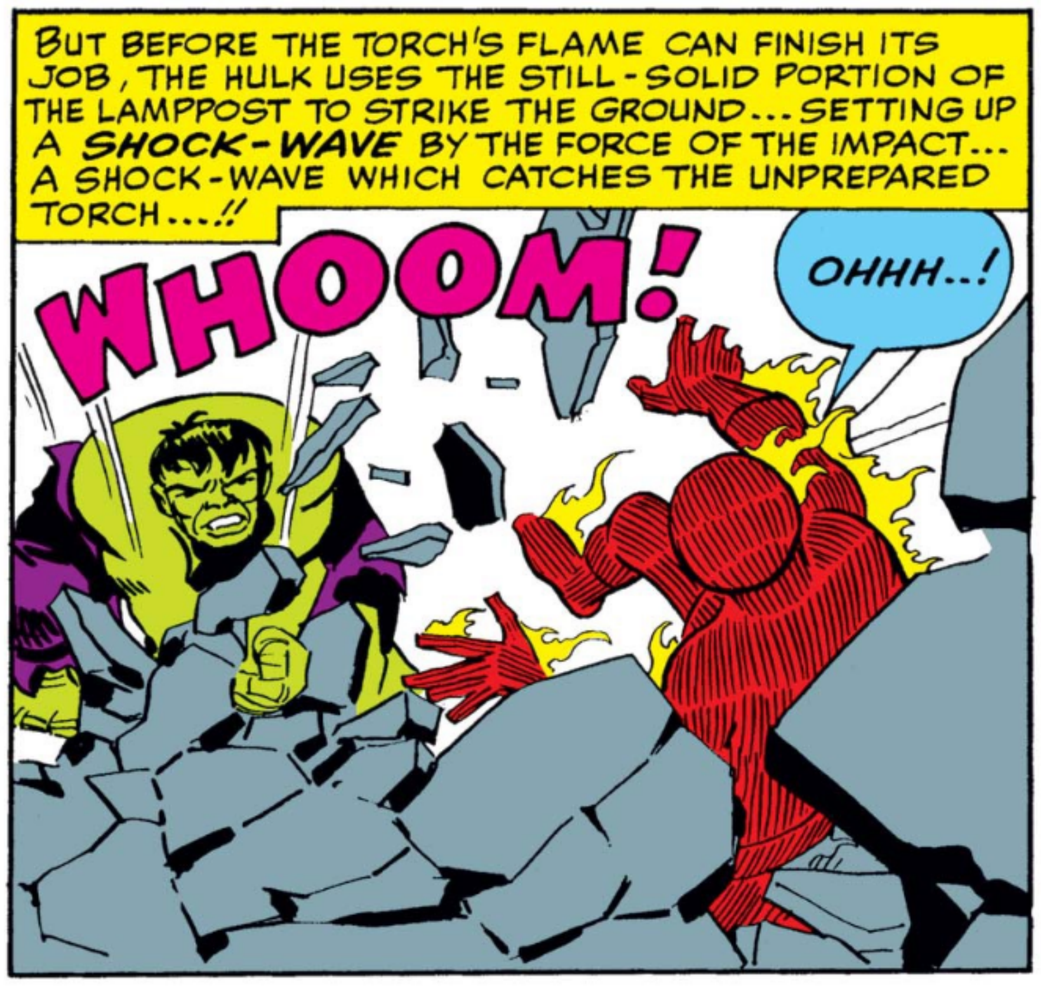

BUT THEN, JOHNNY STORM SEES SOMETHING WHICH MAKES HIM REALIZE HE MUST STOP!!
THE BUILDING DIDN'T JUST COLLAPSE...IT WAS SMASHED DOWN!
AND THERE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE...IT..IT'S THE HULK!!


I'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER THE HULK! REED WOULD WANT IT THIS WAY! TOO MANY INNOCENT LIVES MAY BE IN DANGER!
FLAME ON!

WOW! HE'S REALLY ON A RAMPAGE! MAYBE I CAN SLOW HIM DOWN WITH A SHOWER OF MOLTEN BRICKS...
NO...IT'S NO GOOD! HIS SKIN IS SO STRONG, HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO FEEL THE HEAT! UH OH...HE SEES ME!

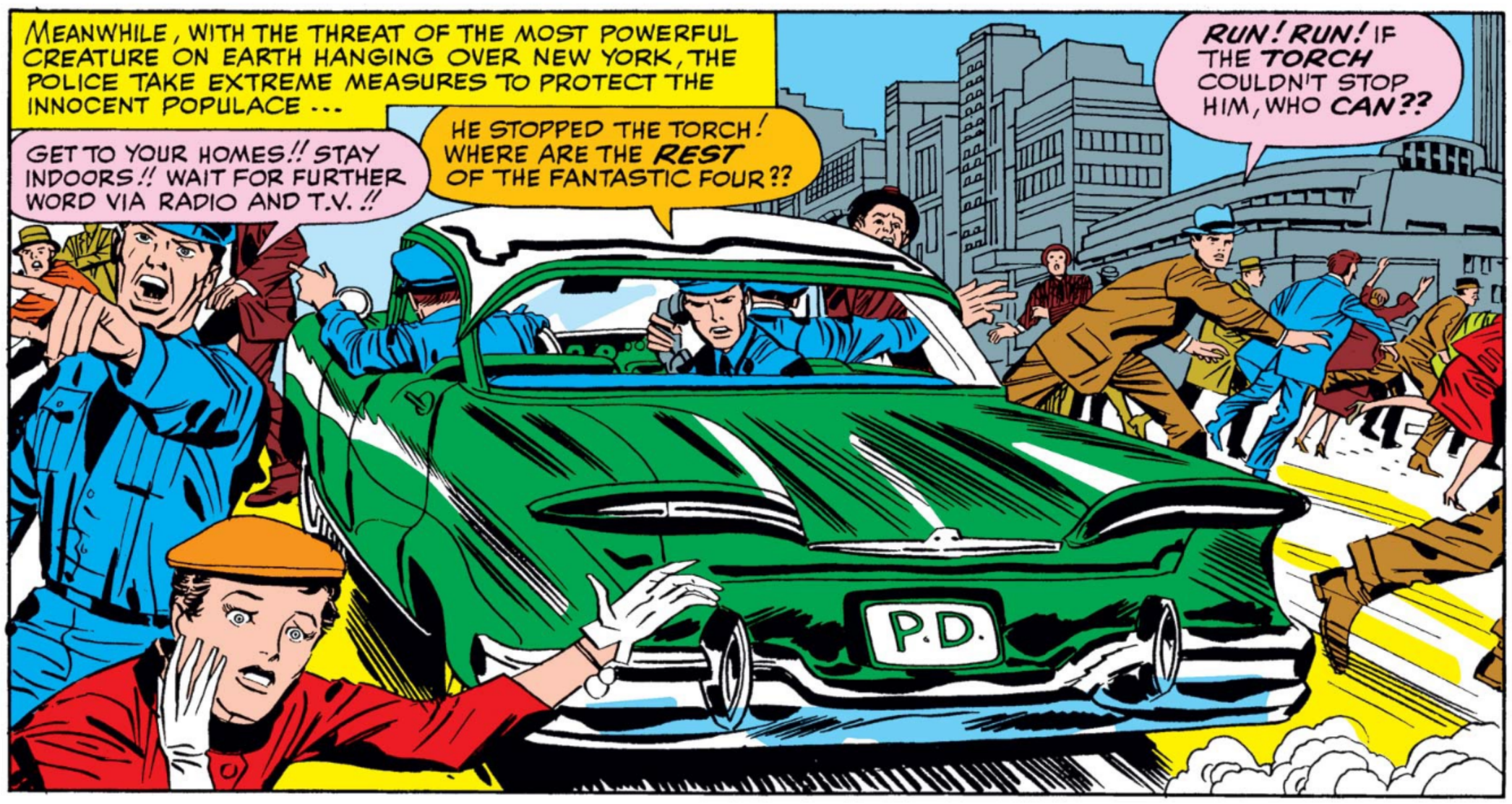
HE'S GRABBING A LAMPPOST...AS IF IT'S MADE OF CARDBOARD! BUT...WHY!?

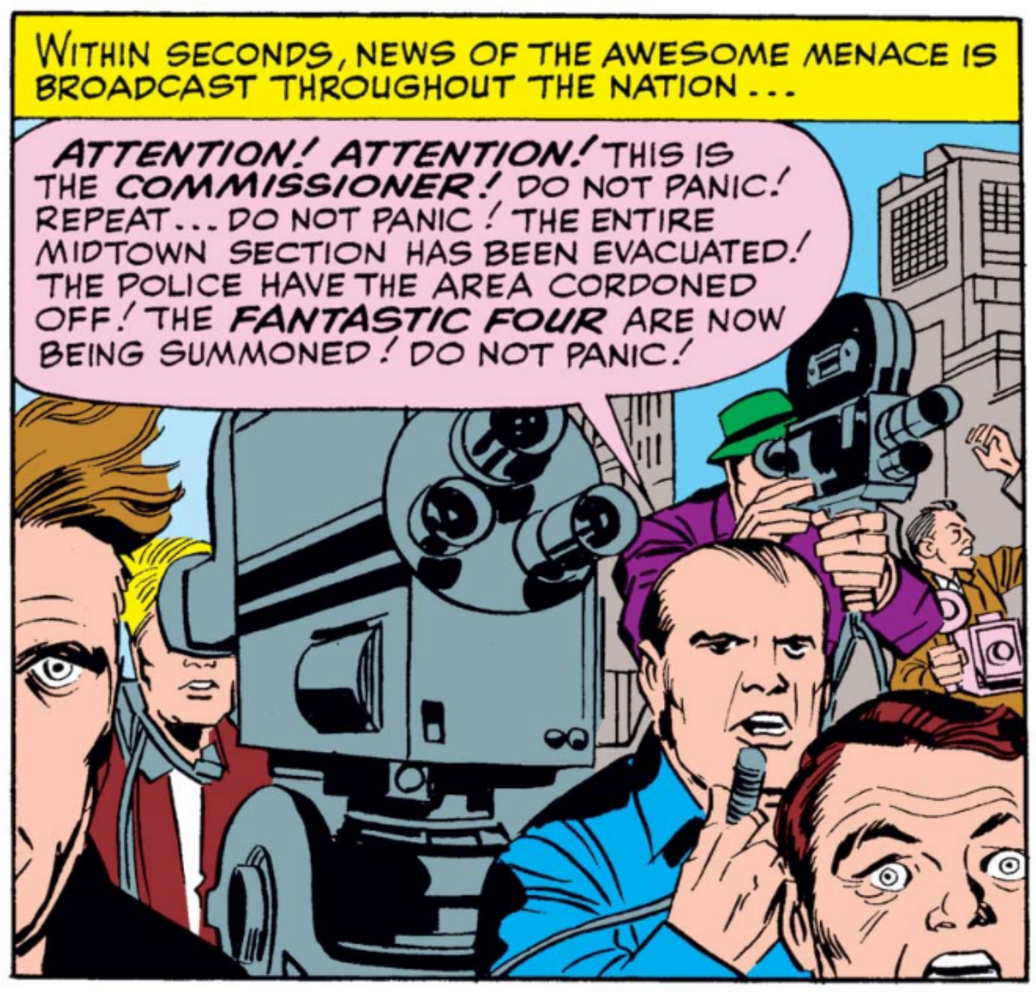
HE'S TRYING TO HIT ME WITH IT...TO USE IT LIKE A GIANT FLY SWATTER! WELL, I'LL JUST MELT IT DOWN INTO NOTHING!

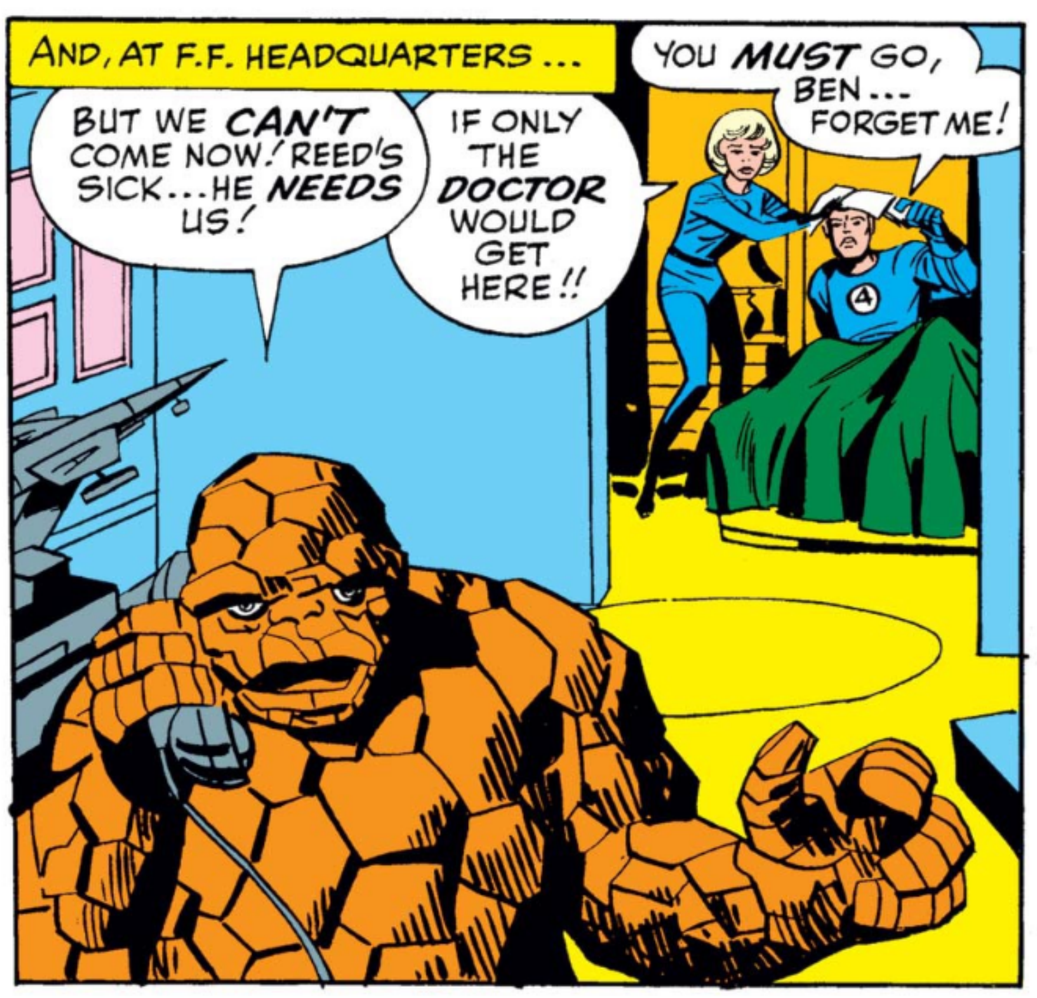

BUT BEFORE THE TORCH'S FLAME CAN FINISH ITS JOB, THE HULK USES THE STILL-SOLID PORTION OF THE LAMPPOST TO STRIKE THE GROUND...SETTING UP A SHOCK-WAVE BY THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT... A SHOCK-WAVE WHICH CATCHES THE UNPREPARED TORCH...!!
WHOOM!
OHHH..!

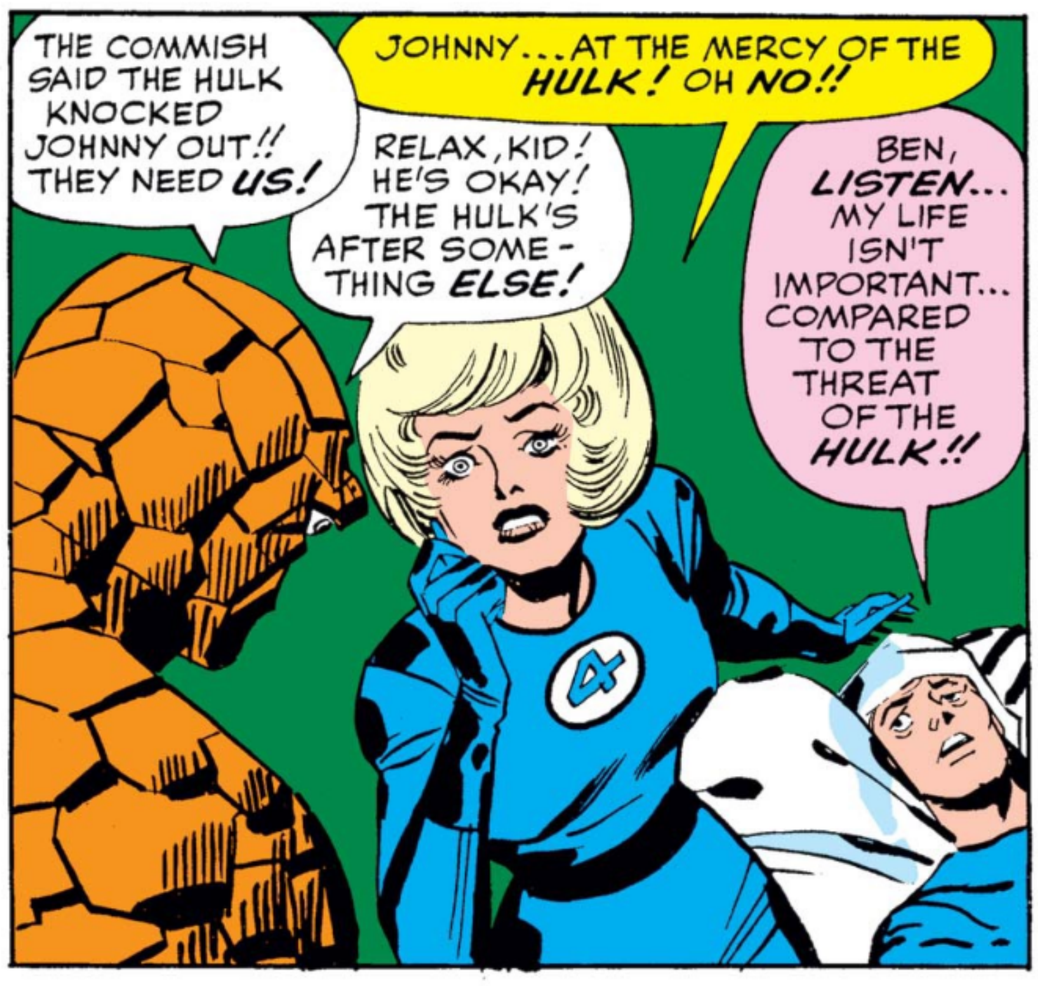
LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS AS A RESULT OF THE SHOCK, THE TORCH'S FLAME GROWS WEAK ENOUGH FOR THE HULK TO GRAB HIM IN HIS TWO BARE HANDS..
GOT YOU!!

HE'S JUST A KID! NOT WORTH WASTING TIME ON! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE AVENGERS! THEY'RE THE ONES I WANT!


MEANWHILE, WITH THE THREAT OF THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE ON EARTH HANGING OVER NEW YORK, THE POLICE TAKE EXTREME MEASURES TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT POPULACE ...
GET TO YOUR HOMES!! STAY INDOORS!! WAIT FOR FURTHER WORD VIA RADIO AND T.V.!!
HE STOPPED THE TORCH! WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR??
RUN! RUN! IF THE TORCH COULDN'T STOP HIM, WHO CAN??
P.D.


WITHIN SECONDS, NEWS OF THE AWESOME MENACE IS BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE NATION ...
ATTENTION! ATTENTION! THIS IS THE COMMISSIONER! DO NOT PANIC! REPEAT... DO NOT PANIC! THE ENTIRE MIDTOWN SECTION HAS BEEN EVACUATED! THE POLICE HAVE THE AREA CORDONED OFF! THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE NOW BEING SUMMONED! DO NOT PANIC!


AND, AT F.F. HEADQUARTERS ...
BUT WE CAN'T COME NOW! REED'S SICK...HE NEEDS US!
IF ONLY THE DOCTOR WOULD GET HERE!!
YOU MUST GO, BEN... FORGET ME!

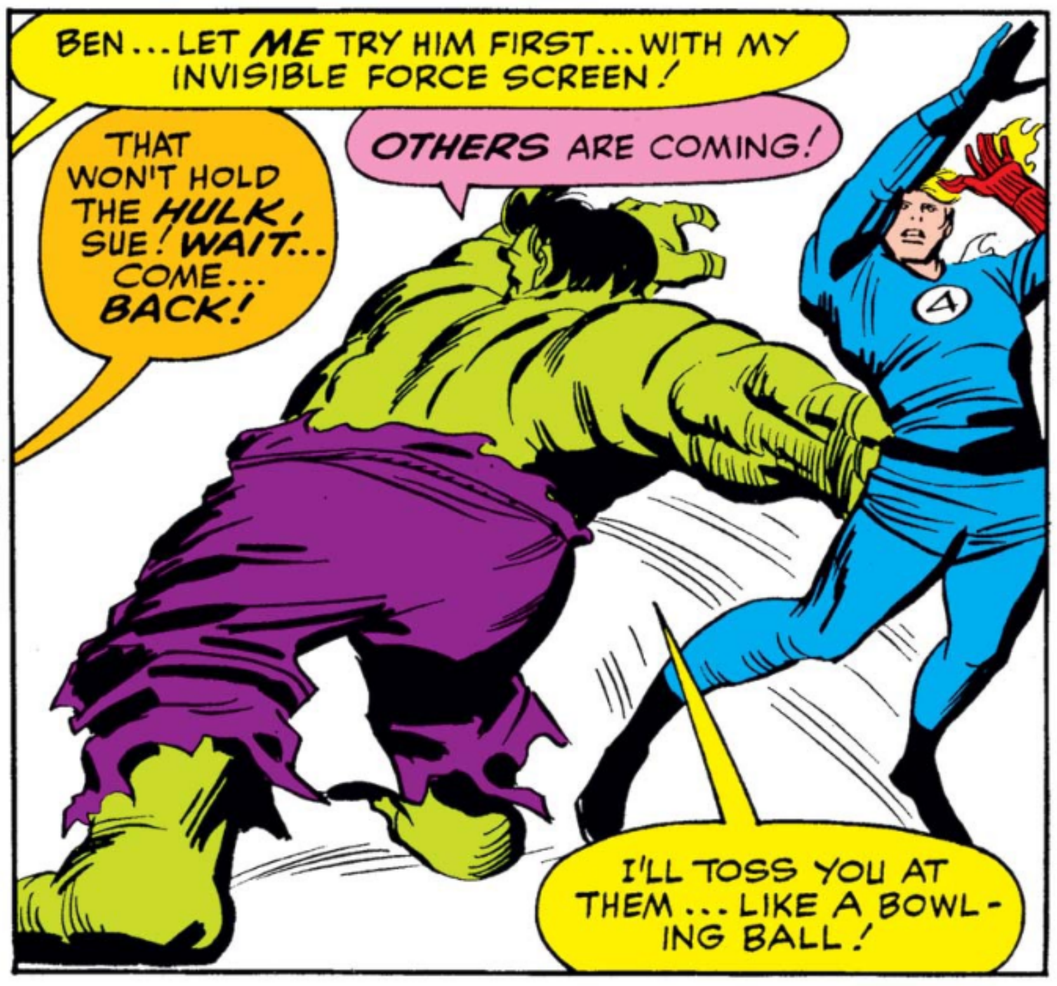

THE COMMISH SAID THE HULK KNOCKED JOHNNY OUT!! THEY NEED US!
JOHNNY...AT THE MERCY OF THE HULK! OH NO!!
RELAX, KID! HE'S OKAY! THE HULK'S AFTER SOMETHING ELSE!
BEN, LISTEN... MY LIFE ISN'T IMPORTANT... COMPARED TO THE THREAT OF THE HULK!!

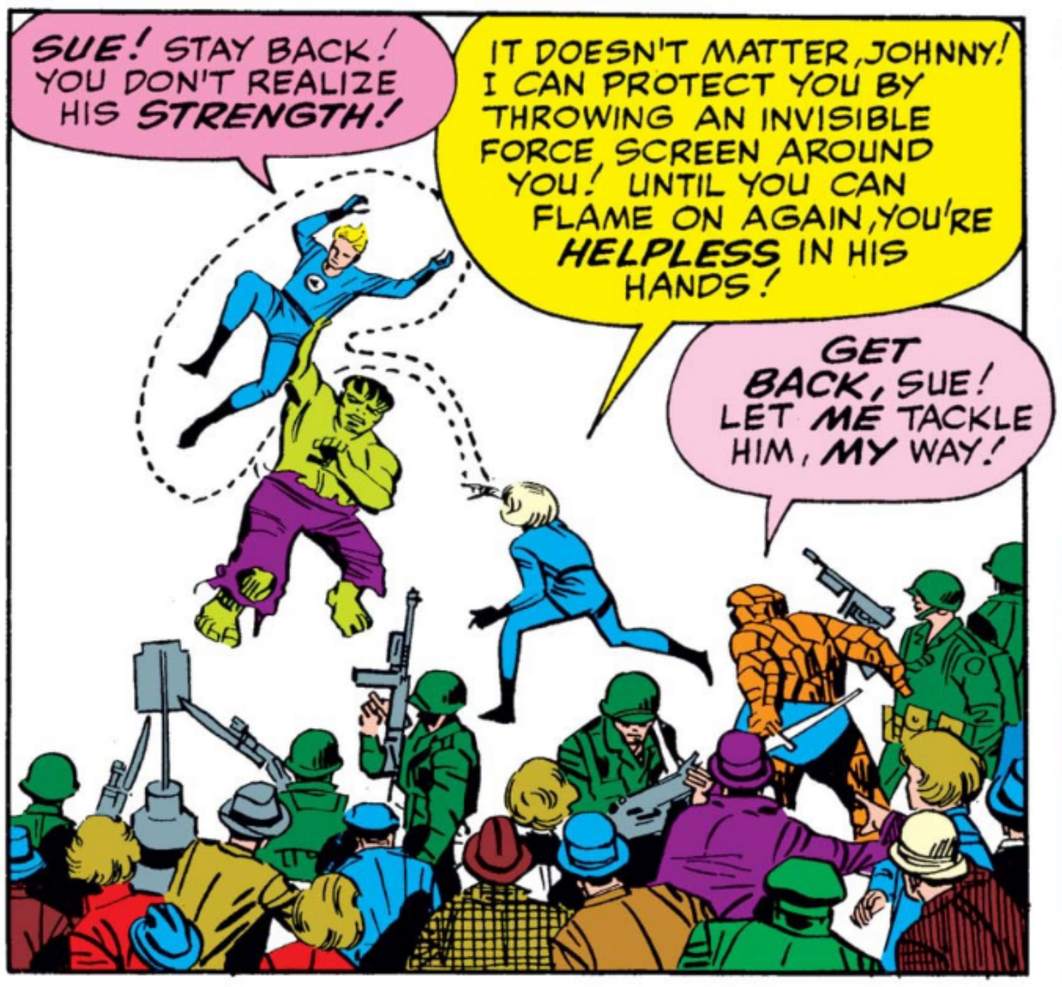
YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE ME! THE CITY NEEDS YOU! HE MUST BE STOPPED! IT'S...YOUR DUTY!
I'LL HANG ON SOMEHOW!! I'M STILL NOT HELPLESS... JUST...JUST WEAK! NOW GO, BOTH OF YOU...DO YOU HEAR ME?? GO!!

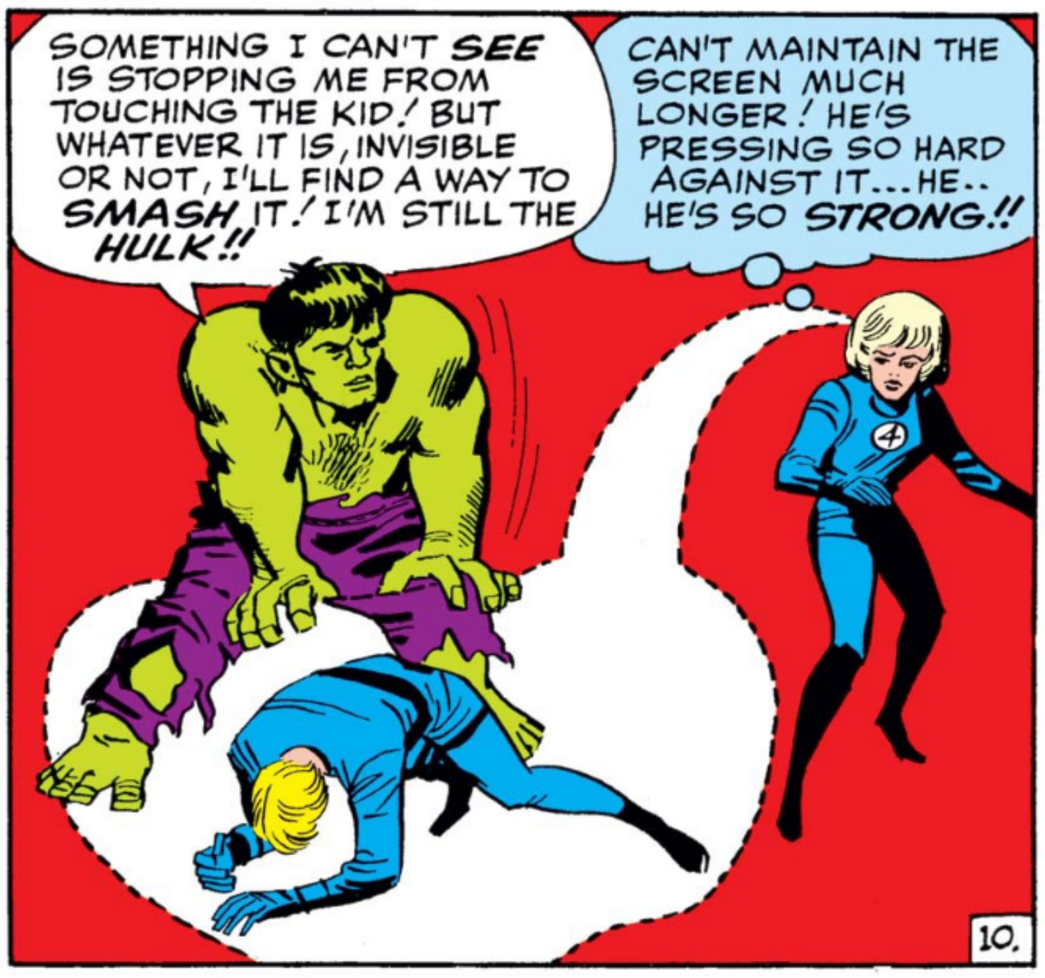
ONE THING MORE... BE CAREFUL, BEN! WE KNOW THE EXTENT OF YOUR STRENGTH...BUT THE HULK'S HAS NEVER BEEN MEASURED! I'M AFRAID HE'S FAR STRONGER THAN YOU, OLD FRIEND!! YOU'LL NEED YOUR WITS... DON'T LET HIM GRAB YOU...
AND SUE... REMAIN INVISIBLE! DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES, MY DARLING...AND REMEMBER... I...I LOVE YOU..
OH, REED! YOU SOUND AS THOUGH... THIS IS... GOODBYE!!

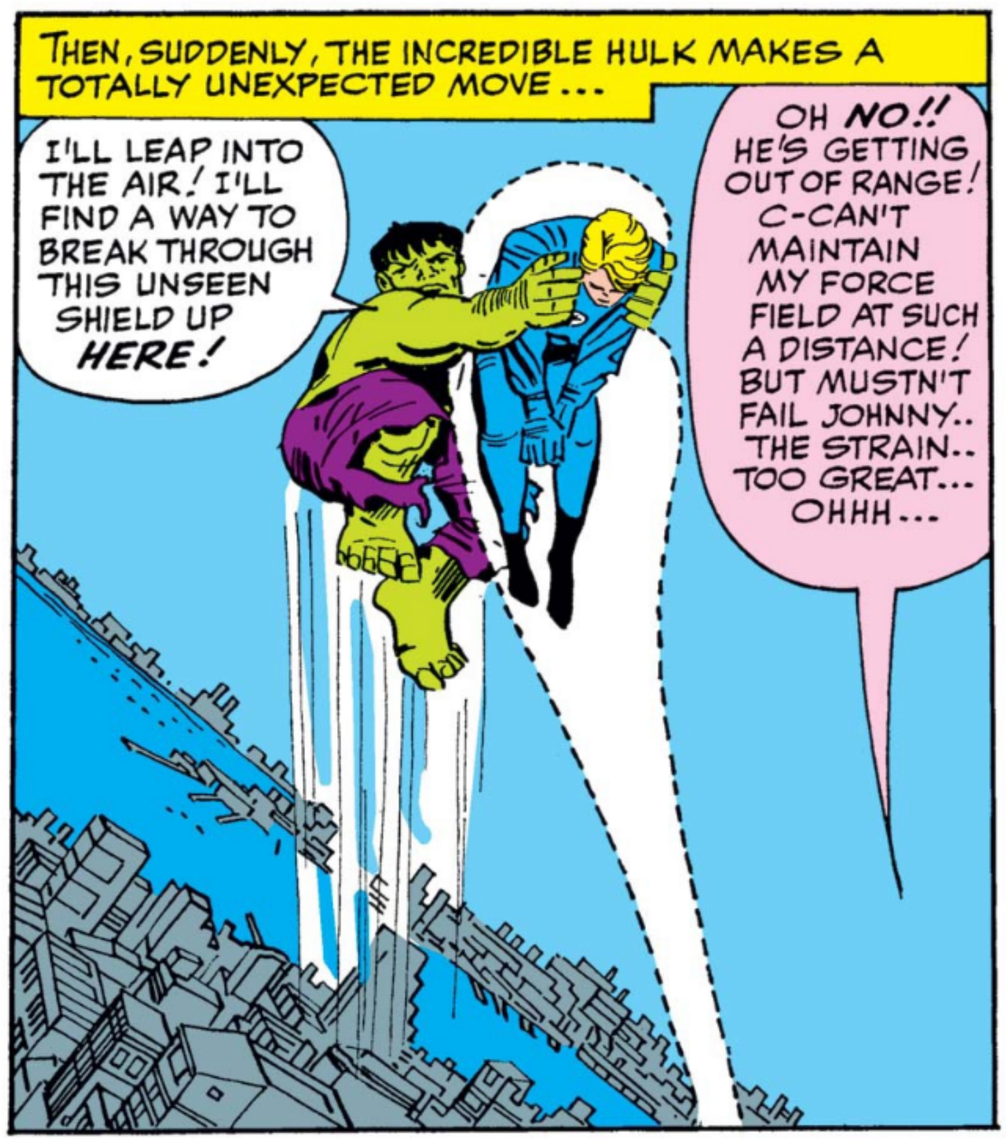
MINUTES LATER, A SQUAD CAR NEARS THE ROPED-OFF AREA...
WE DON'T WANT TO USE ATOMIC WEAPONS IF WE CAN HELP IT! BUT IF HE'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU, THING, BACK AWAY...WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR SIGNAL TO STEP IN!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, PAL! HE'S THE ONE WHO'S GONNA NEED THE FLOWERS!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET A DOCTOR FOR REED WHILE WE'RE GONE!!

LOOK! THERE THEY ARE! JOHNNY'S RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS BUT...WHY DOESN'T HE RUN??
GOTTA HAND IT TO THE KID! HE'S TRYIN' TO FLAME ON AGAIN! BUT HE HASN'T A CHANCE!


BEN...LET ME TRY HIM FIRST...WITH MY INVISIBLE FORCE SCREEN!
THAT WON'T HOLD THE HULK, SUE! WAIT... COME... BACK!
OTHERS ARE COMING!
I'LL TOSS YOU AT THEM...LIKE A BOWLING BALL!


SUE! STAY BACK! YOU DON'T REALIZE HIS STRENGTH!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, JOHNNY! I CAN PROTECT YOU BY THROWING AN INVISIBLE FORCE SCREEN AROUND YOU! UNTIL YOU CAN FLAME ON AGAIN, YOU'RE HELPLESS IN HIS HANDS!
GET BACK, SUE! LET ME TACKLE HIM, MY WAY!

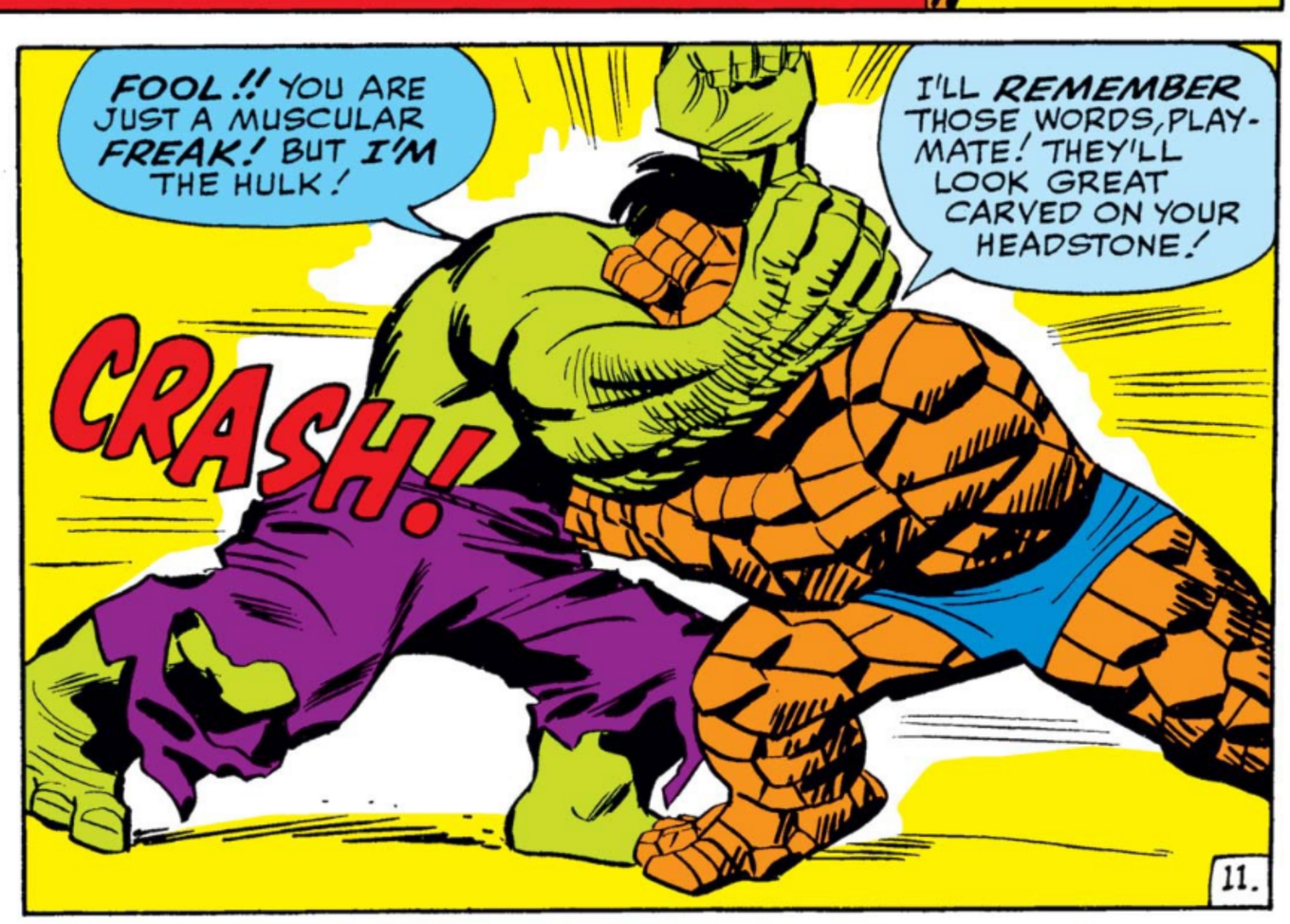

SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE IS STOPPING ME FROM TOUCHING THE KID! BUT WHATEVER IT IS, INVISIBLE OR NOT, I'LL FIND A WAY TO SMASH IT! I'M STILL THE HULK!!
CAN'T MAINTAIN THE SCREEN MUCH LONGER! HE'S PRESSING SO HARD AGAINST IT...HE.. HE'S SO STRONG!!


THEN, SUDDENLY, THE INCREDIBLE HULK MAKES A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED MOVE...
I'LL LEAP INTO THE AIR! I'LL FIND A WAY TO BREAK THROUGH THIS UNSEEN SHIELD UP HERE!
OH NO!! HE'S GETTING OUT OF RANGE! C-CAN'T MAINTAIN MY FORCE FIELD AT SUCH A DISTANCE! BUT MUSTN'T FAIL JOHNNY.. THE STRAIN.. TOO GREAT... OHHH...

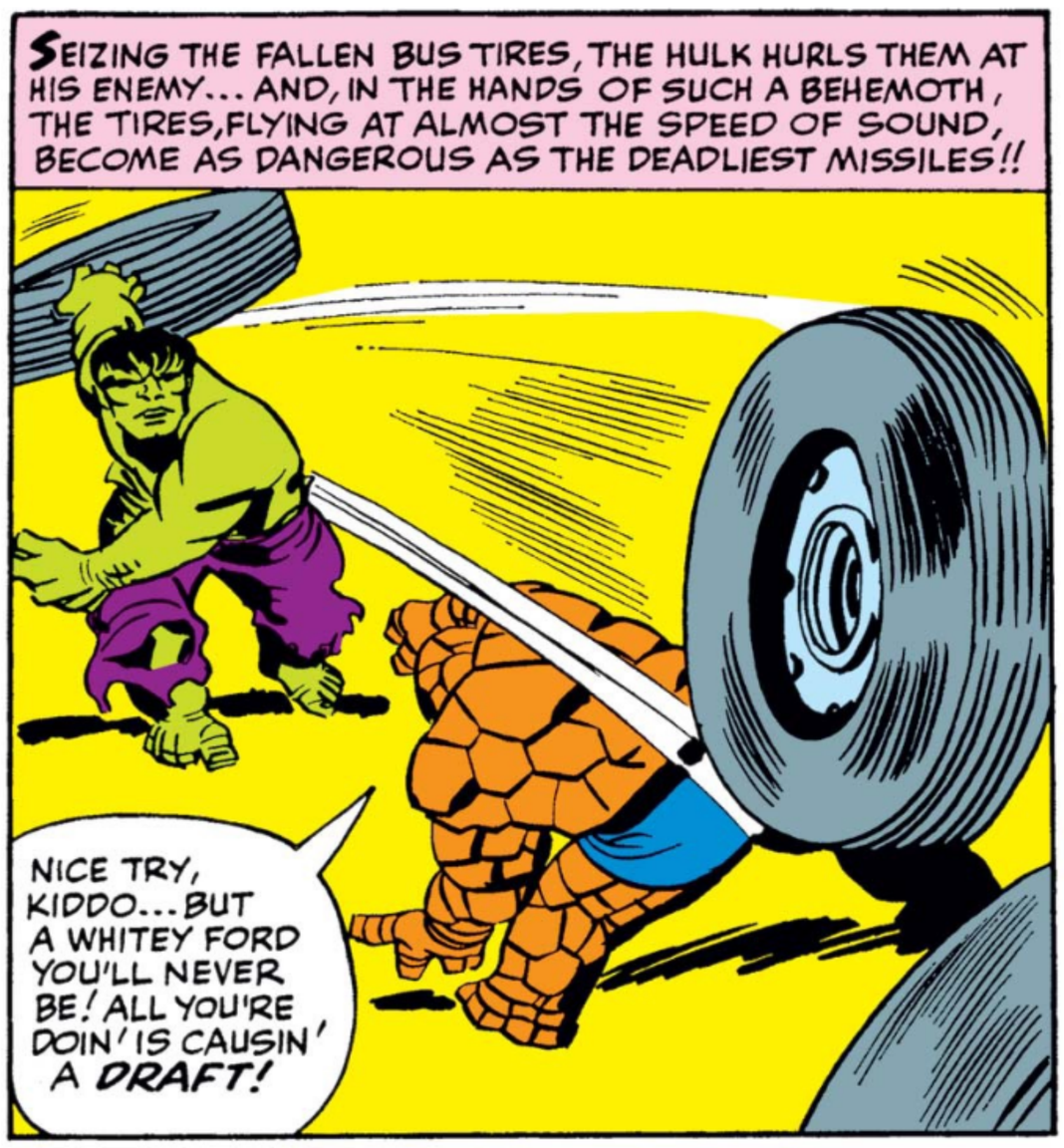
THE STRAIN WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER! SHE FAINTED! NOW IT'S UP TO ME!
HERE, SOLDIER... TAKE CARE OF HER, HEAR? I GOT ME A LITTLE JOB TO DO RIGHT NOW!
WE'LL LOOK AFTER HER! BUT IF YOU FAIL, TOO, THEN WE'RE MOVING IN! WE'LL HIT 'IM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

FINALLY, AS THE HULK RETURNS TO EARTH WITH HIS HELPLESS PRISONER, THE TWO TITANS CONFRONT EACH OTHER... HERALDING THE START OF ONE OF THE GREATEST HAND-TO-HAND BATTLES IN RECORDED HISTORY!
THE THING!
SO! YOU REMEMBER ME, HUH? * WELL, THIS TIME I'M GONNA MAKE SURE YOU NEVER FORGET ME!
* THE TWO FOES FIRST MET IN F.F. #12 – EDITOR.

YOU MEAN NOTHING TO ME! IT IS THE AVENGERS I WANT TO DESTROY! BUT IF I MUST SMASH YOU FIRST, THEN SMASH YOU I WILL!
GREAT SPEECH, SONNY BOY! NOW PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!


FOOL!! YOU ARE JUST A MUSCULAR FREAK! BUT I'M THE HULK!
I'LL REMEMBER THOSE WORDS, PLAY-MATE! THEY'LL LOOK GREAT CARVED ON YOUR HEADSTONE!
CRASH!

THOUGH SMALLER, THE THING IS MORE AGILE, FASTER-MOVING THAN THE LUMBERING HULK, AND SO HE LANDS THE FIRST BLOW... A THUNDEROUS HAYMAKER WHICH SENDS HIS HUGE FOE CRASHING THROUGH AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE WALL!
THIS'LL SHOW YA YOU'RE NOT PLAYIN' WITH KIDS NOW!!
BUT THE HULK MERELY SHRUGS OFF THE IMPACT AND CHARGES BACK INTO THE BATTLE, FILLED WITH A MAD, INSATIABLE RAGE!
AND NOW... IT'S MY TURN!
MY BEST BET IS TRY TO TIRE HIM OUT BEFORE TANGLING WITH HIM AGAIN!
AIN'T YOU EMBARRASSED TO GO AROUND WITH THAT ANTI-SOCIAL ATTITUDE ALL THE TIME?
I'LL LET 'IM TAKE ONE MORE STEP, THEN DUCK OUT OF THE WAY! A SMART COOKIE LIKE ME OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO RATTLE HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FOR? I'LL GET YOU SOONER OR LATER... YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME BEHIND AN EMPTY BUS!
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, JUNIOR! I'M AFRAID I MIGHT CLOBBER YOU TOO HARD AND SPOIL THOSE HANDSOME FEATURES!
UPTOWN
TRY TO MAKE FUN OF THE HULK, WILL YOU??! YOU'LL SOON REGRET THAT!!
WHEW! ANEMIC HE AIN'T!


SEIZING THE FALLEN BUS TIRES, THE HULK HURLS THEM AT HIS ENEMY... AND, IN THE HANDS OF SUCH A BEHEMOTH, THE TIRES, FLYING AT ALMOST THE SPEED OF SOUND, BECOME AS DANGEROUS AS THE DEADLIEST MISSILES!!
NICE TRY, KIDDO... BUT A WHITEY FORD YOU'LL NEVER BE! ALL YOU'RE DOIN' IS CAUSIN' A DRAFT!

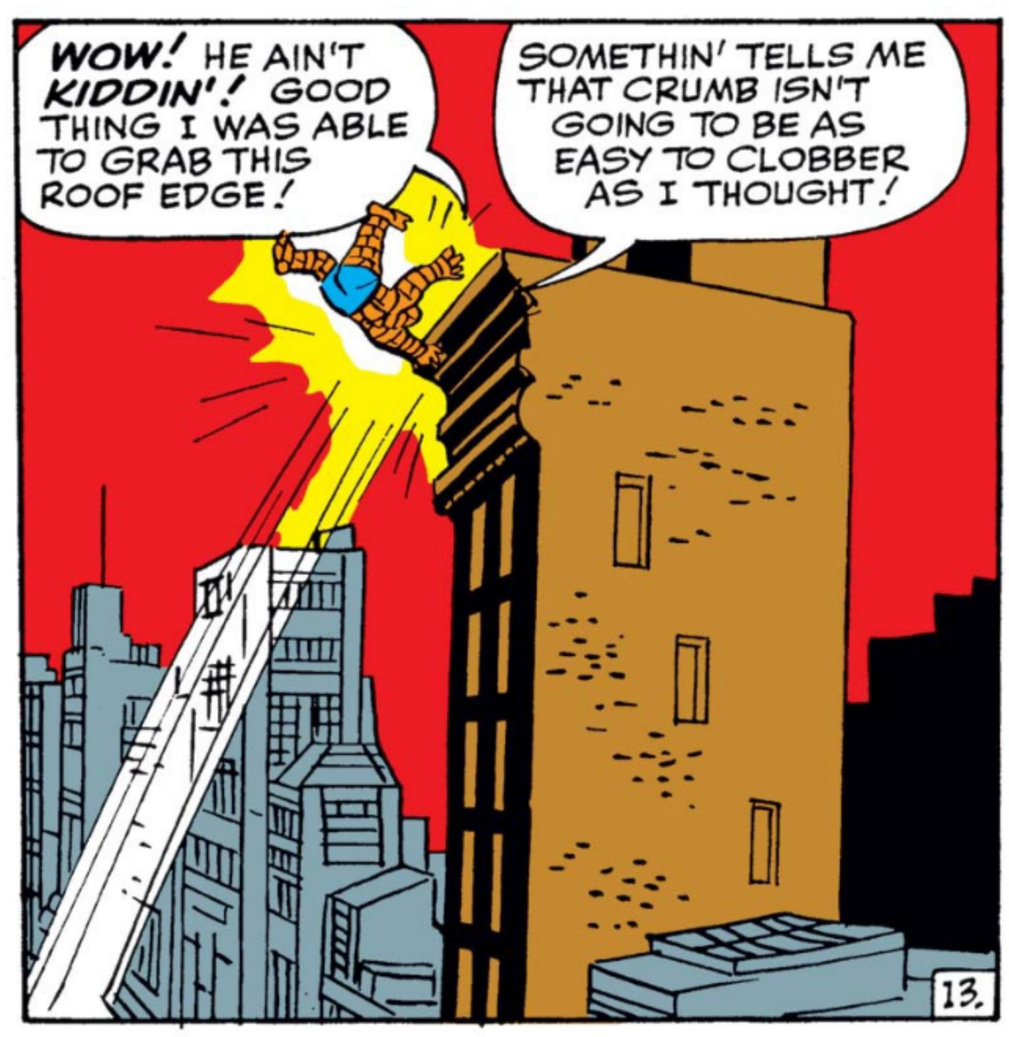
I FEEL SORRY FOR YA NOW, HULK... BECAUSE YOU MADE ME MAD! ME, WHO'S NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO LOSE HIS TEMPER BEFORE!

BUT, MOVING WITH SURPRISING SPEED FOR ONE SO HUGE, THE HULK LASHES OUT, AND...
HAH! NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
OOF!

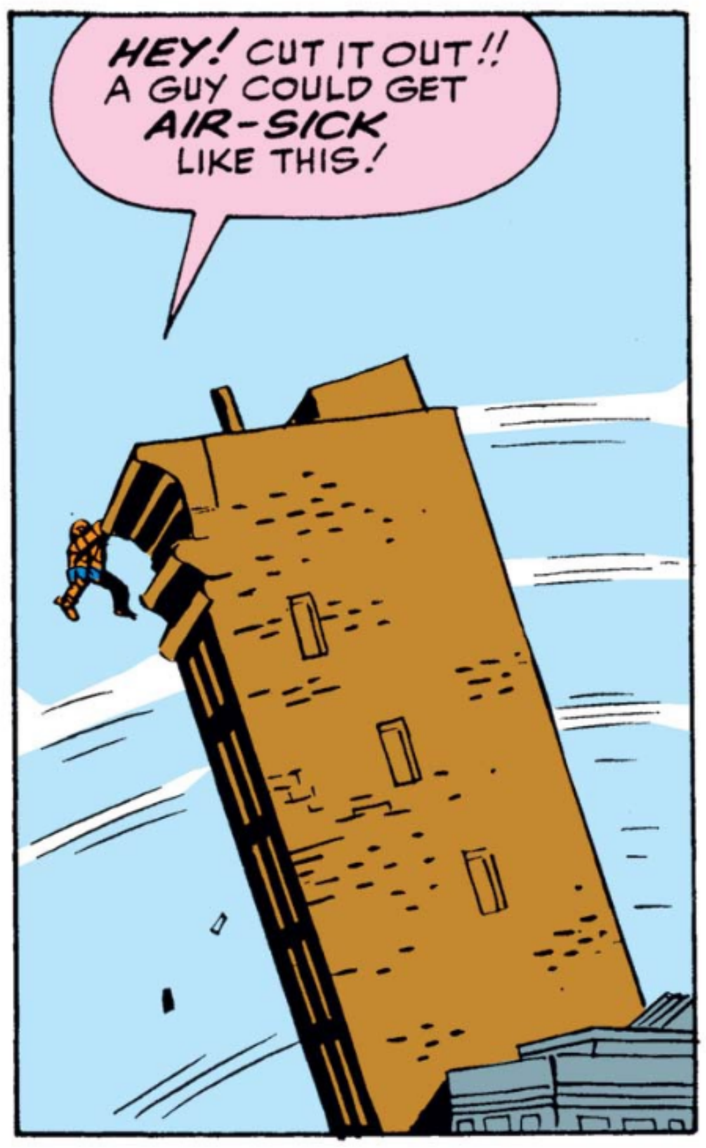
WHERE ARE YOUR WISE-CRACKS NOW, THING?? YOUR INSULTING REMARKS?? WHERE IS THE STRENGTH YOU ALWAYS BRAG ABOUT?
MAYBE I LEFT 'EM IN MY OTHER SUIT! HEY... LEGGO! THAT'S THE HAND I EAT PIZZA WITH!

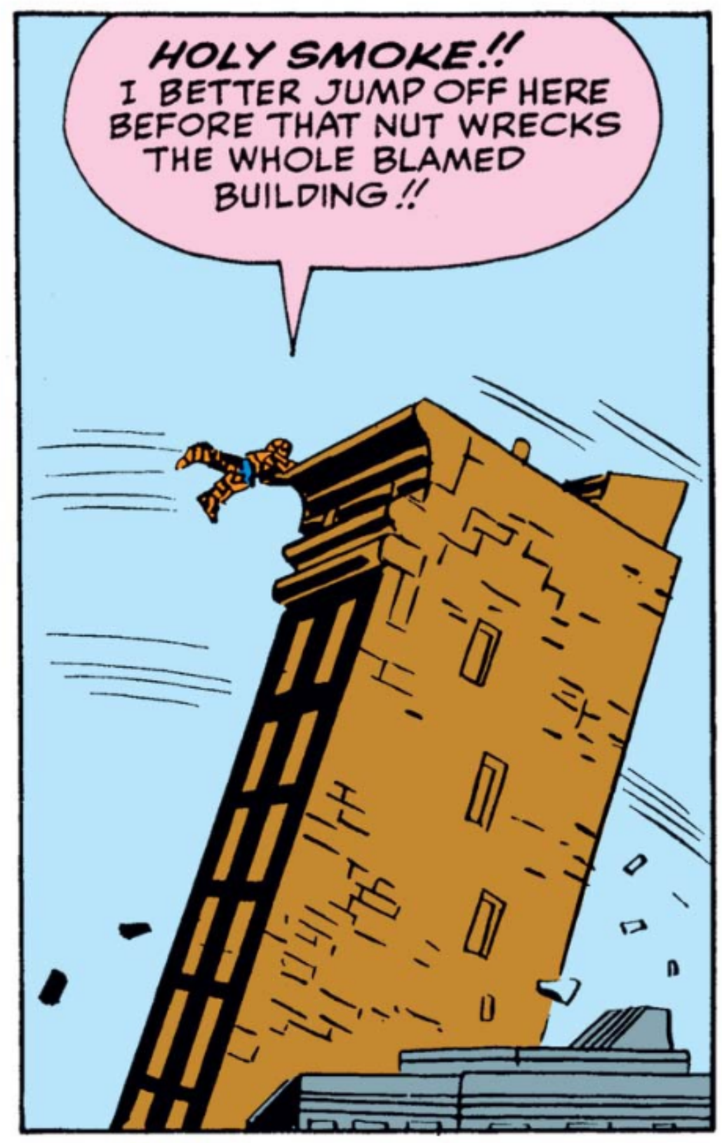
I'LL LET GO... RIGHT AFTER I LEAP 'WAY UP TO GET THE FORCE I NEED, AND THEN...

THERE!! YOU'RE FREE!! FREE TO GO HURTLING INTO THE AIR! AND WHEN YOU LAND, IT'LL BE YOUR FINISH!


WOW! HE AIN'T KIDDIN'! GOOD THING I WAS ABLE TO GRAB THIS ROOF EDGE!
SOMETHIN' TELLS ME THAT CRUMB ISN'T GOING TO BE AS EASY TO CLOBBER AS I THOUGHT!

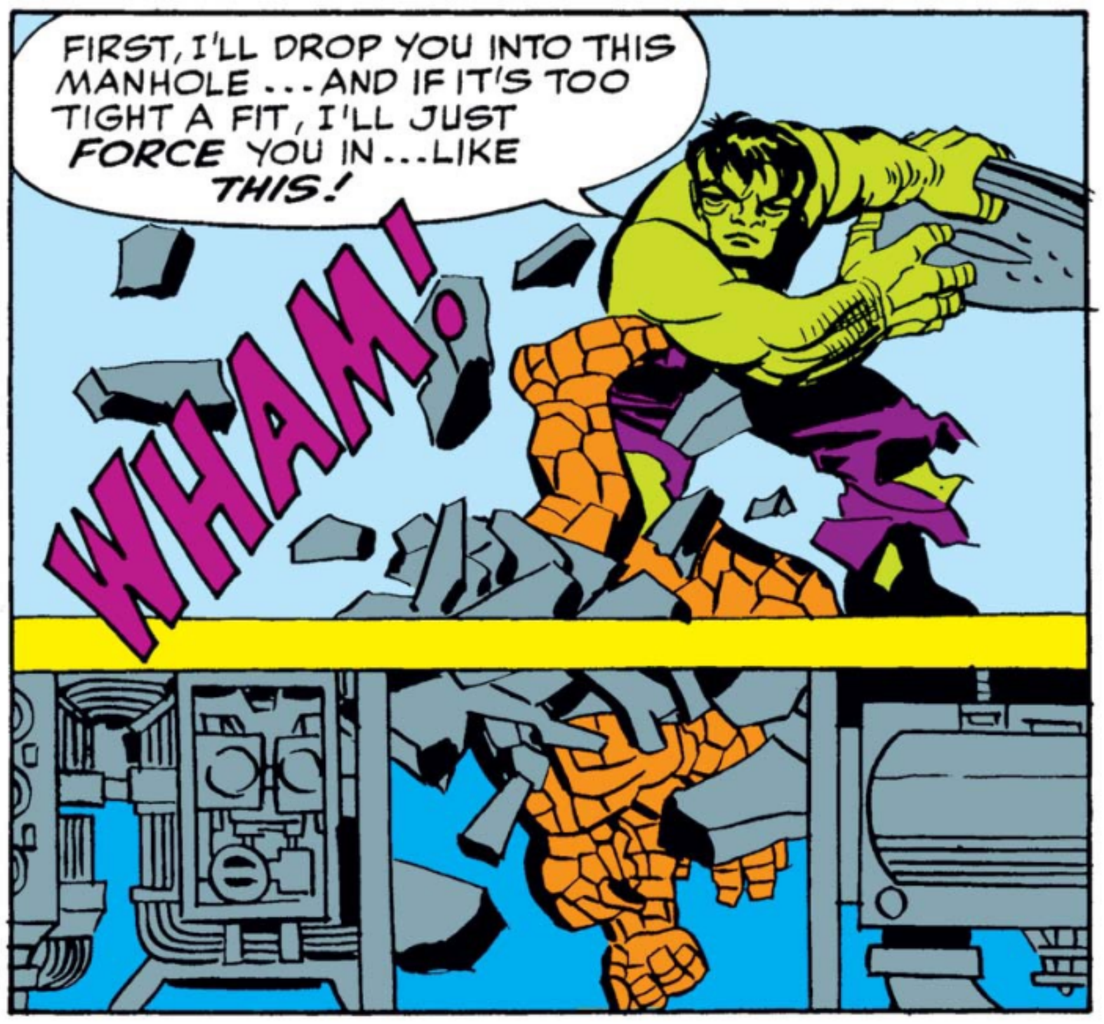
HE SAVED HIMSELF BY GRABBING THE ROOF! BUT I'LL SHAKE HIM OFF... LIKE I'D SHAKE A ROTTEN APPLE OFF A TREE!

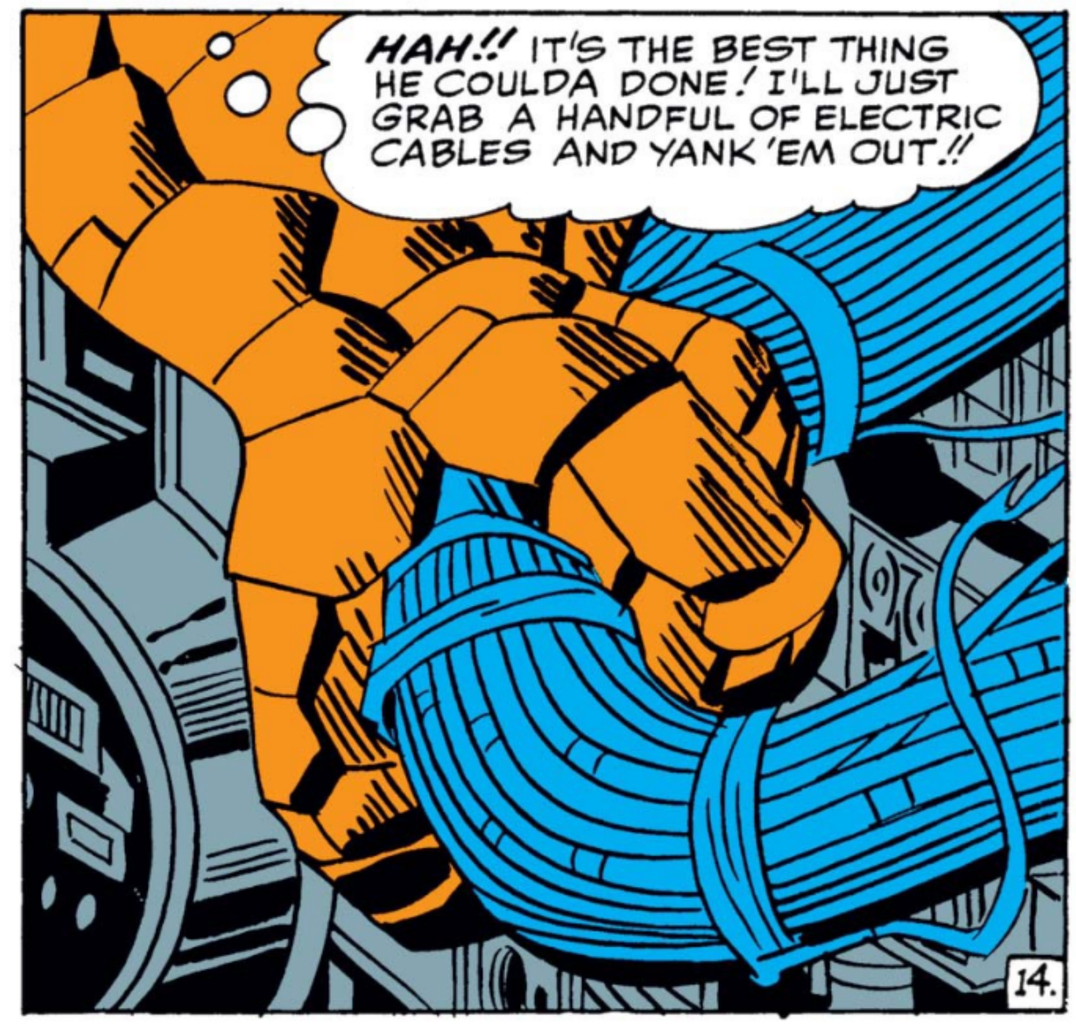

HEY! CUT IT OUT!! A GUY COULD GET AIR-SICK LIKE THIS!


HOLY SMOKE!! I BETTER JUMP OFF HERE BEFORE THAT NUT WRECKS THE WHOLE BLAMED BUILDING!!

OKAY, MELVIN! IF YOU WANT ME, JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE!!
GERONIMO!

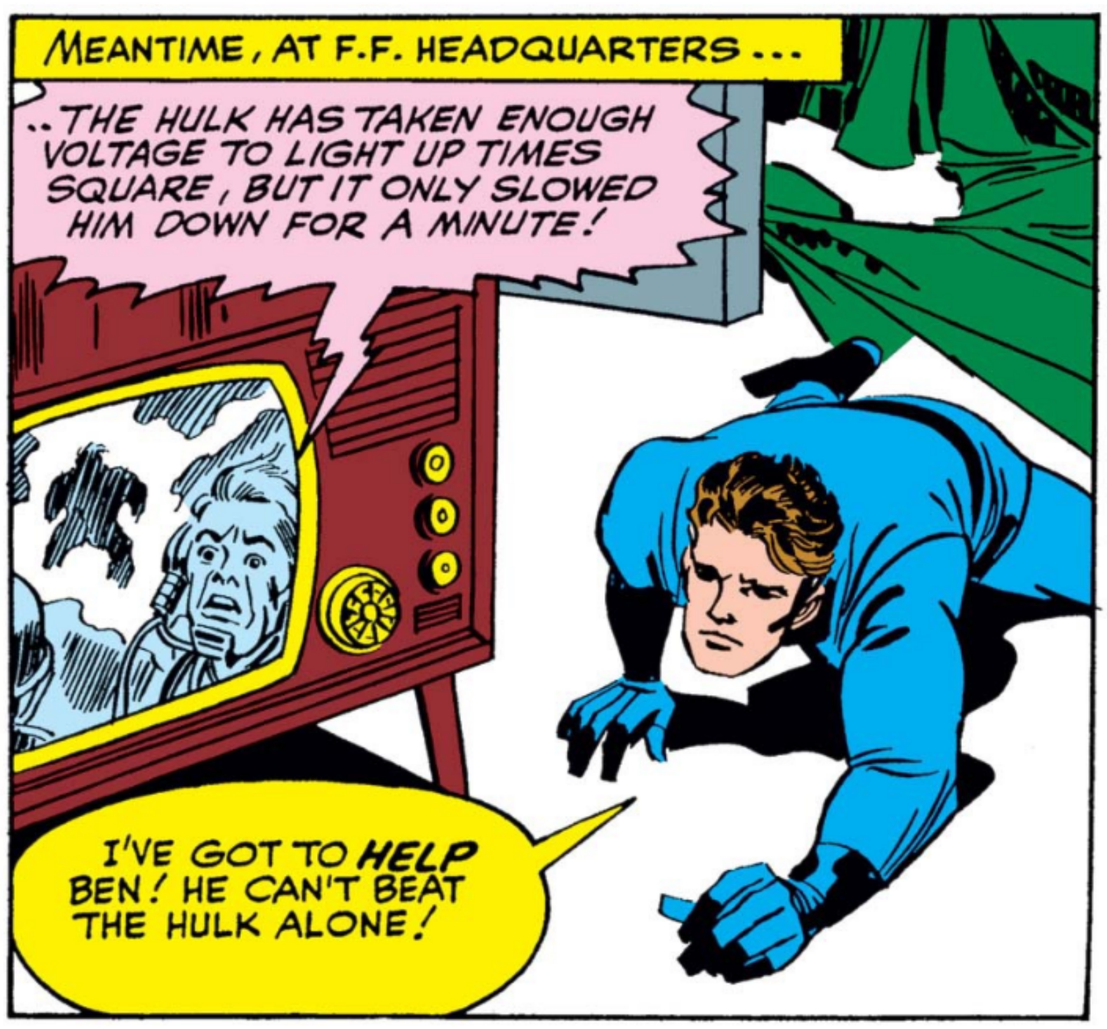
BUT, AT THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND, THE INCREDIBLE HULK STEPS BACK, WHILE HE LASHES OUT WITH HIS TWO MIGHTY ARMS, CATCHING THE THING BEFORE HE CAN STRIKE THE GROUND!
DID YOU THINK I'D LET YOU LAND ON ME?? NO... I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOU!

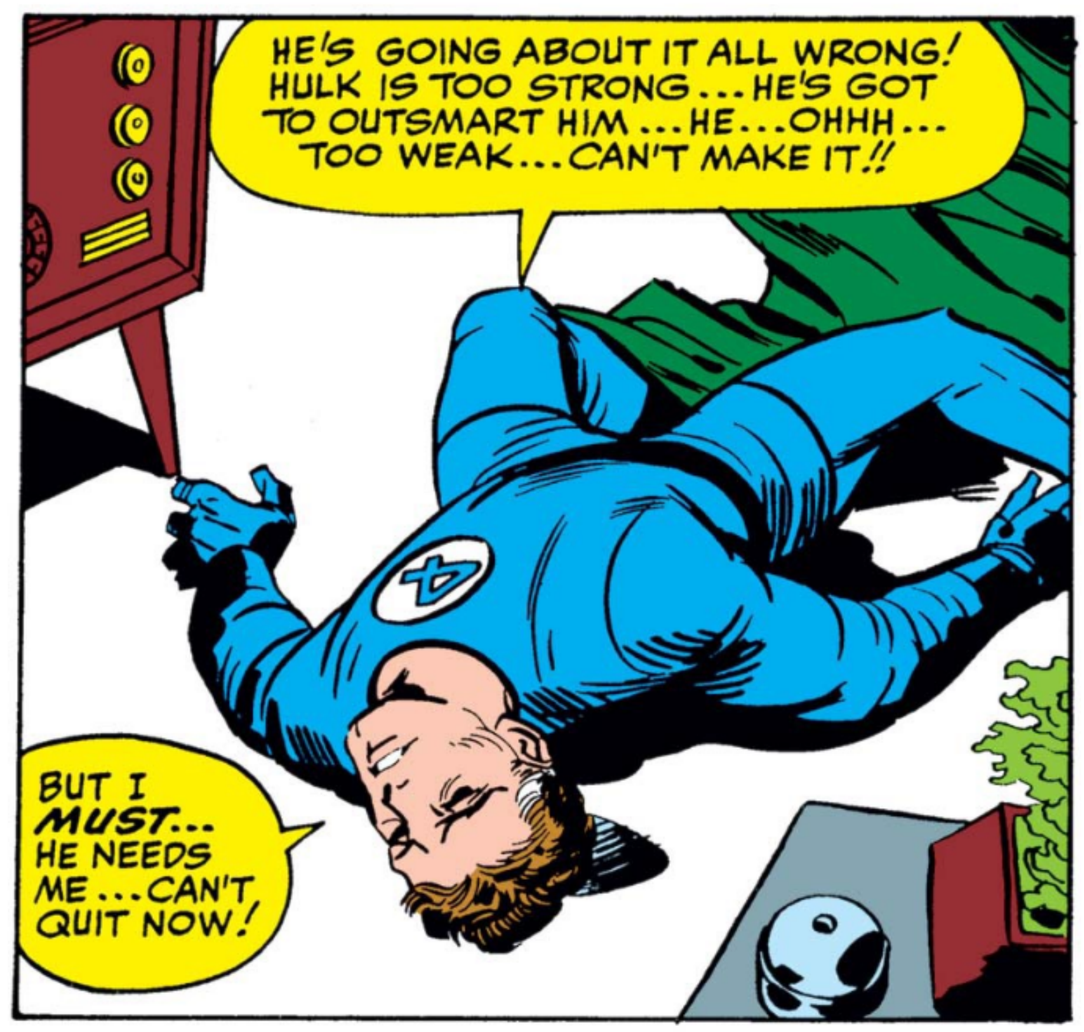

FIRST, I'LL DROP YOU INTO THIS MANHOLE... AND IF IT'S TOO TIGHT A FIT, I'LL JUST FORCE YOU IN... LIKE THIS!
WHAM!


HAH!! IT'S THE BEST THING HE COULDA DONE! I'LL JUST GRAB A HANDFUL OF ELECTRIC CABLES AND YANK 'EM OUT!!

HE'S BEEN TRAPPED THERE LONG ENOUGH! NOW I'LL PULL HIM OUT AND FINISH HIM OFF!
WHAT'S THAT I FEEL BEING PRESSED AGAINST MY HAND??

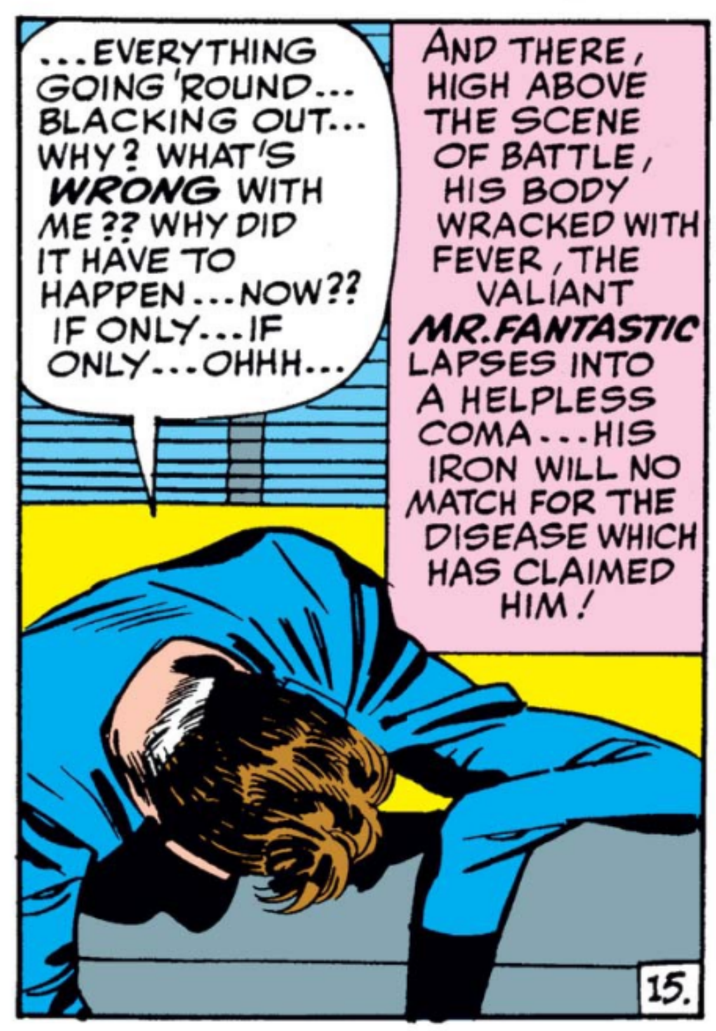
LIVE ELECTRIC WIRES!! MILLIONS OF VOLTS! HE TRICKED ME!!

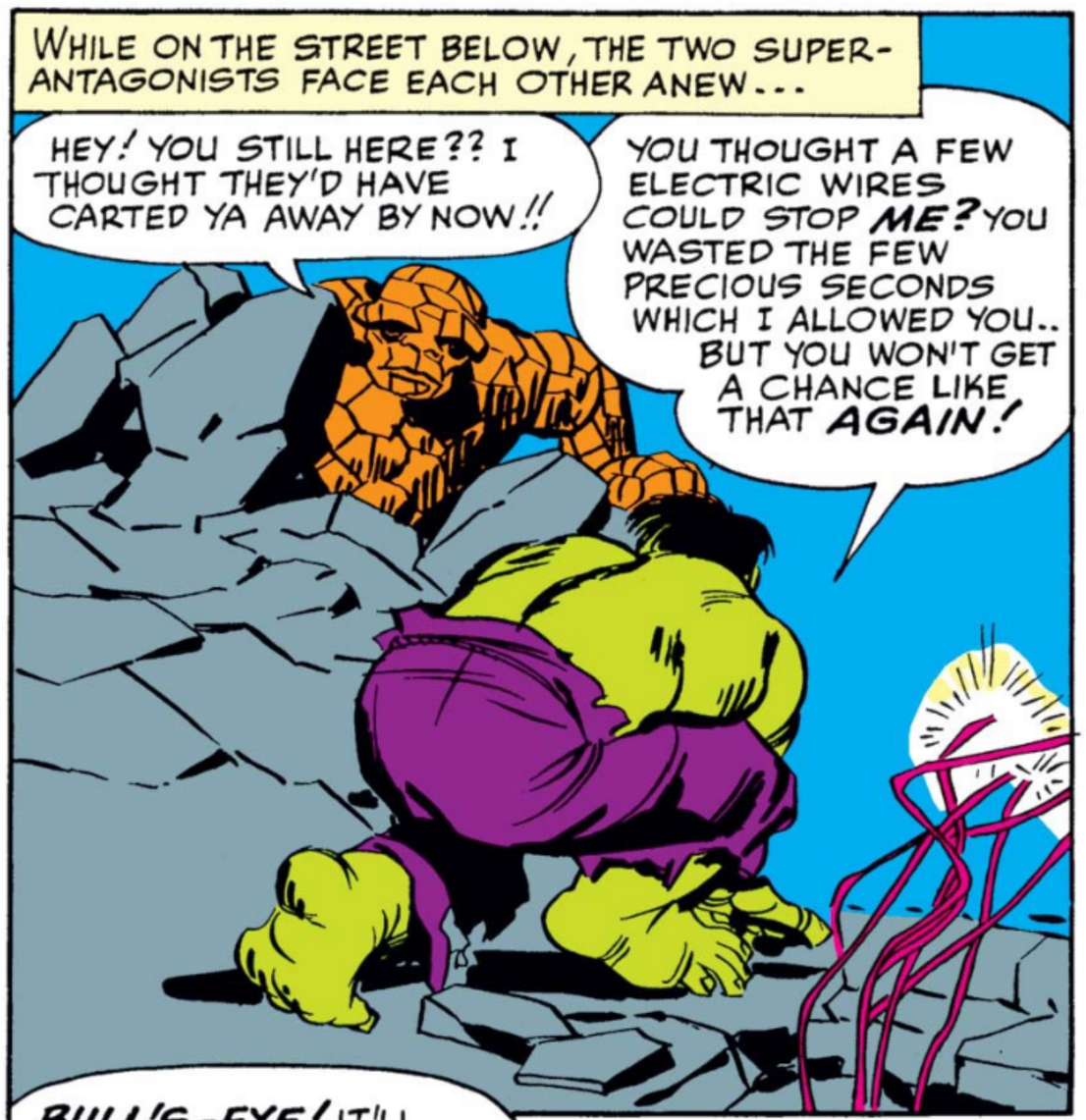

MEANTIME, AT F.F. HEADQUARTERS...
..THE HULK HAS TAKEN ENOUGH VOLTAGE TO LIGHT UP TIMES SQUARE, BUT IT ONLY SLOWED HIM DOWN FOR A MINUTE!
I'VE GOT TO HELP BEN! HE CAN'T BEAT THE HULK ALONE!

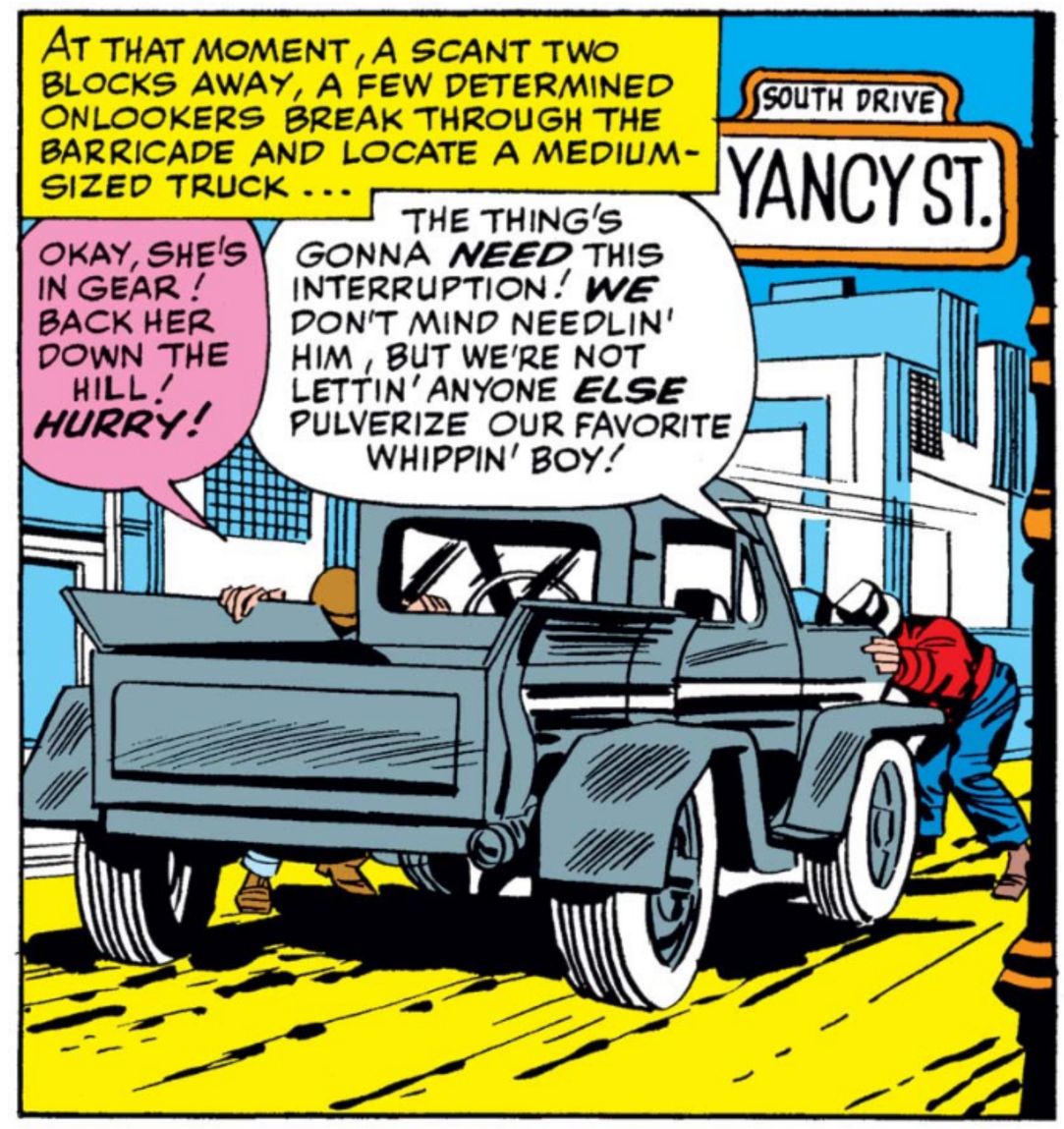

HE'S GOING ABOUT IT ALL WRONG! HULK IS TOO STRONG... HE'S GOT TO OUTSMART HIM... HE... OHHH... TOO WEAK... CAN'T MAKE IT!!
BUT I MUST... HE NEEDS ME... CAN'T QUIT NOW!

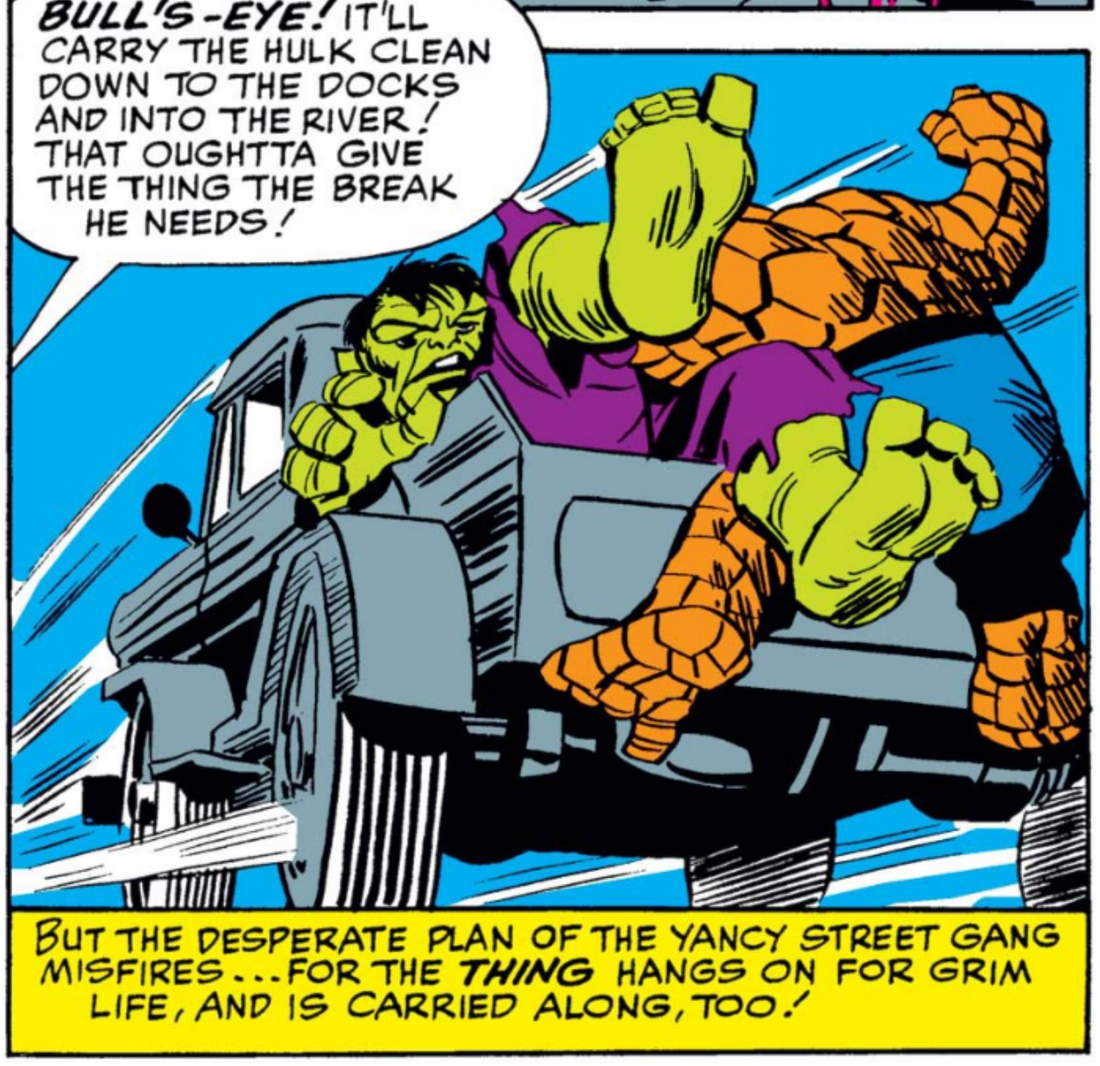
MAYBE... IF I CAN MAKE IT TO WINDOW... GET SOME AIR... IT'LL REVIVE ME... GIVE ME STRENGTH...

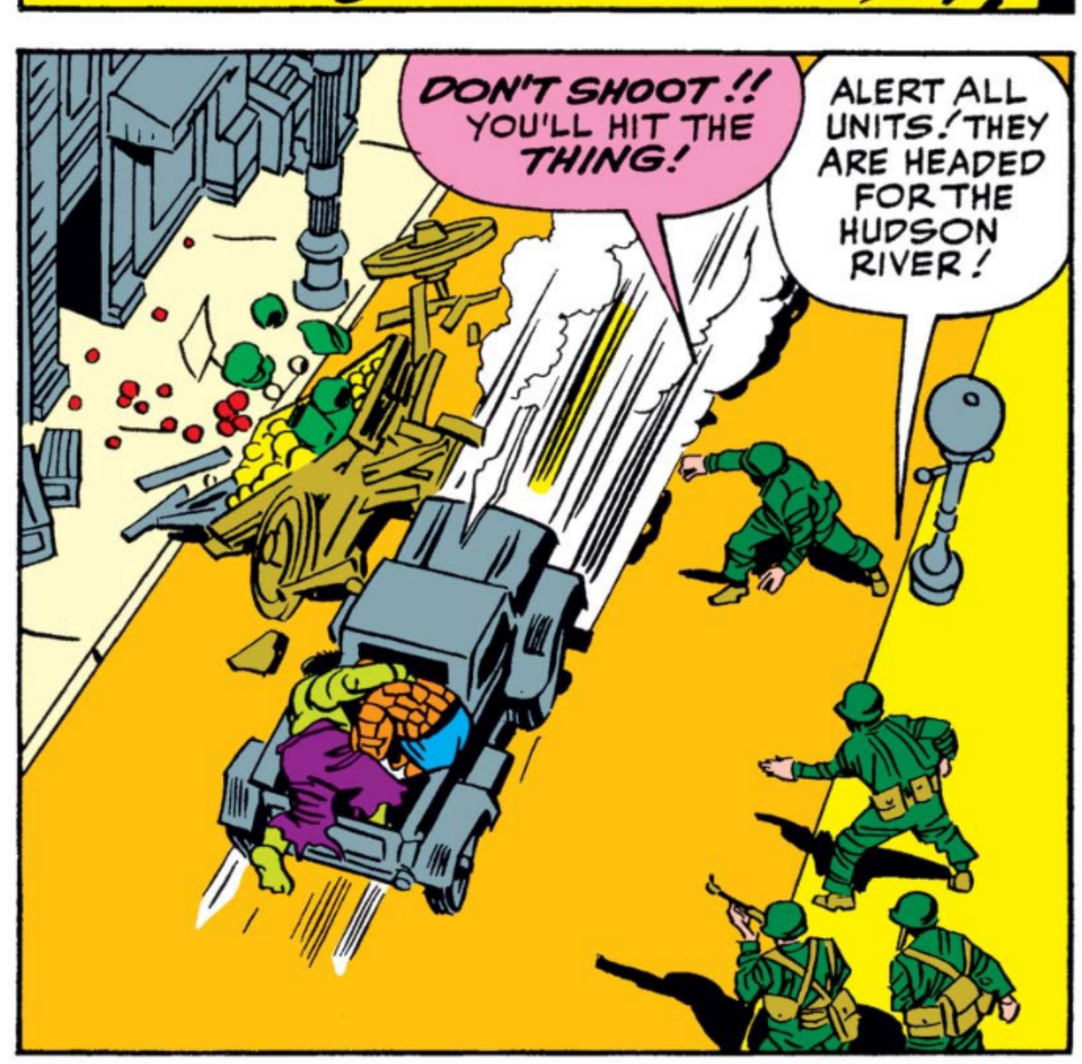
...I'VE GOT TO STRETCH... REACH OUT... CAUSE A DIVERSION DOWN BELOW... THING NEEDS TIME TO GET A PLAN...

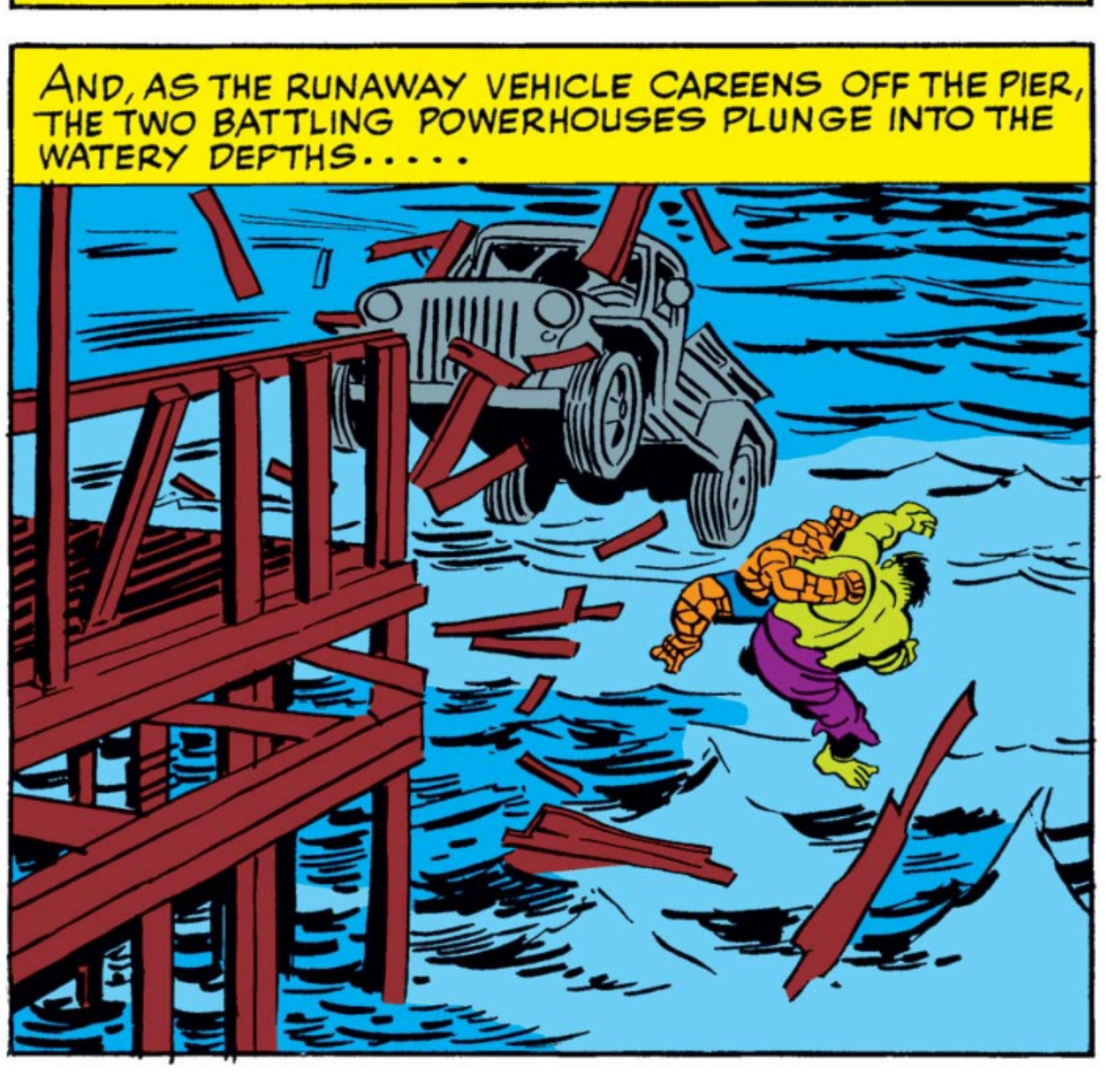

...EVERYTHING GOING 'ROUND... BLACKING OUT... WHY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?? WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN... NOW?? IF ONLY... IF ONLY... OHHH...
AND THERE, HIGH ABOVE THE SCENE OF BATTLE, HIS BODY WRACKED WITH FEVER, THE VALIANT MR. FANTASTIC LAPSES INTO A HELPLESS COMA... HIS IRON WILL NO MATCH FOR THE DISEASE WHICH HAS CLAIMED HIM!

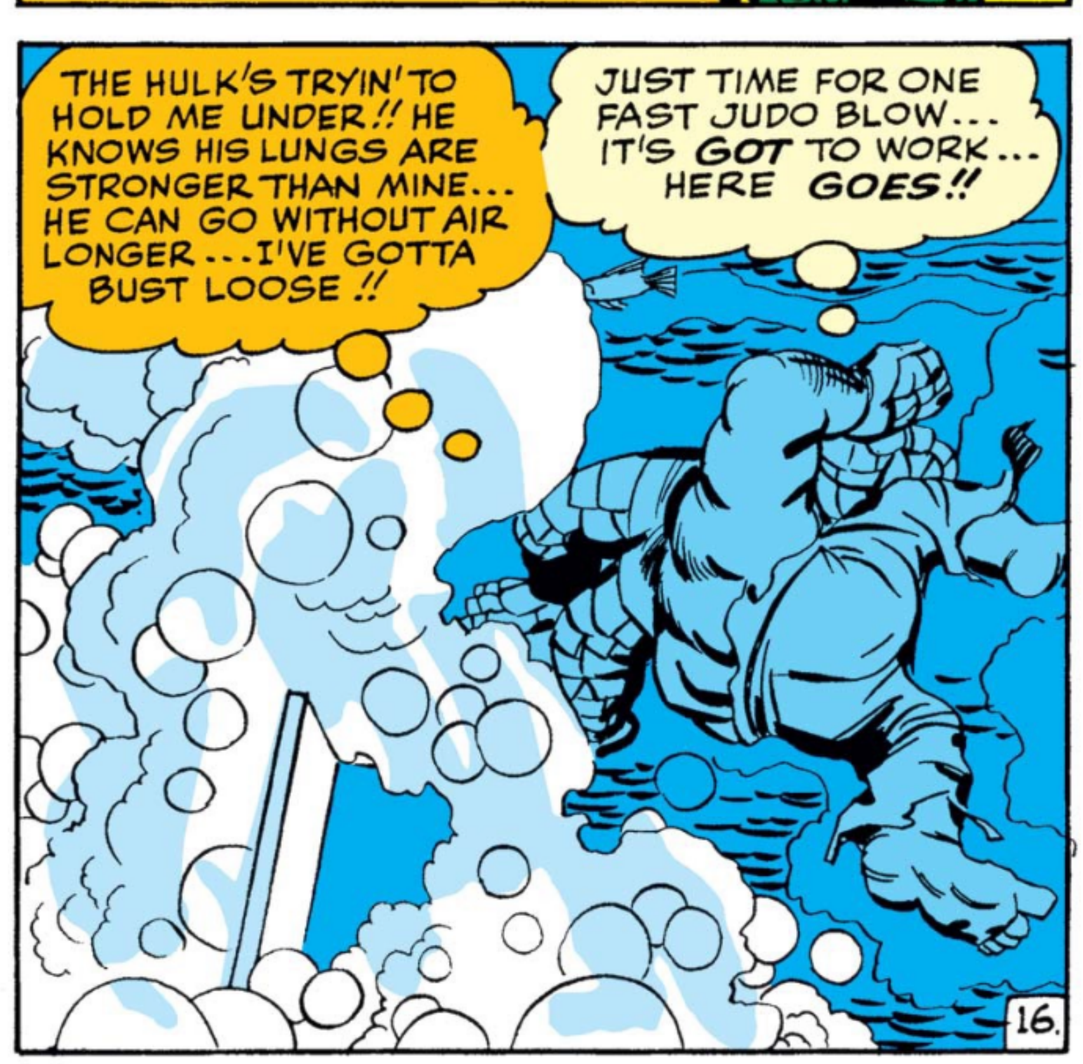

WHILE ON THE STREET BELOW, THE TWO SUPER-ANTAGONISTS FACE EACH OTHER ANEW...
HEY! YOU STILL HERE?? I THOUGHT THEY'D HAVE CARTED YA AWAY BY NOW!!
YOU THOUGHT A FEW ELECTRIC WIRES COULD STOP ME? YOU WASTED THE FEW PRECIOUS SECONDS WHICH I ALLOWED YOU.. BUT YOU WON'T GET A CHANCE LIKE THAT AGAIN!


AT THAT MOMENT, A SCANT TWO BLOCKS AWAY, A FEW DETERMINED ONLOOKERS BREAK THROUGH THE BARRICADE AND LOCATE A MEDIUM-SIZED TRUCK...
SOUTH DRIVE
YANCY ST.
OKAY, SHE'S IN GEAR! BACK HER DOWN THE HILL! HURRY!
THE THING'S GONNA NEED THIS INTERRUPTION! WE DON'T MIND NEEDLIN' HIM, BUT WE'RE NOT LETTIN' ANYONE ELSE PULVERIZE OUR FAVORITE WHIPPIN' BOY!


BULL'S-EYE! IT'LL CARRY THE HULK CLEAN DOWN TO THE DOCKS AND INTO THE RIVER! THAT OUGHTTA GIVE THE THING THE BREAK HE NEEDS!
BUT THE DESPERATE PLAN OF THE YANCY STREET GANG MISFIRES...FOR THE THING HANGS ON FOR GRIM LIFE, AND IS CARRIED ALONG, TOO!

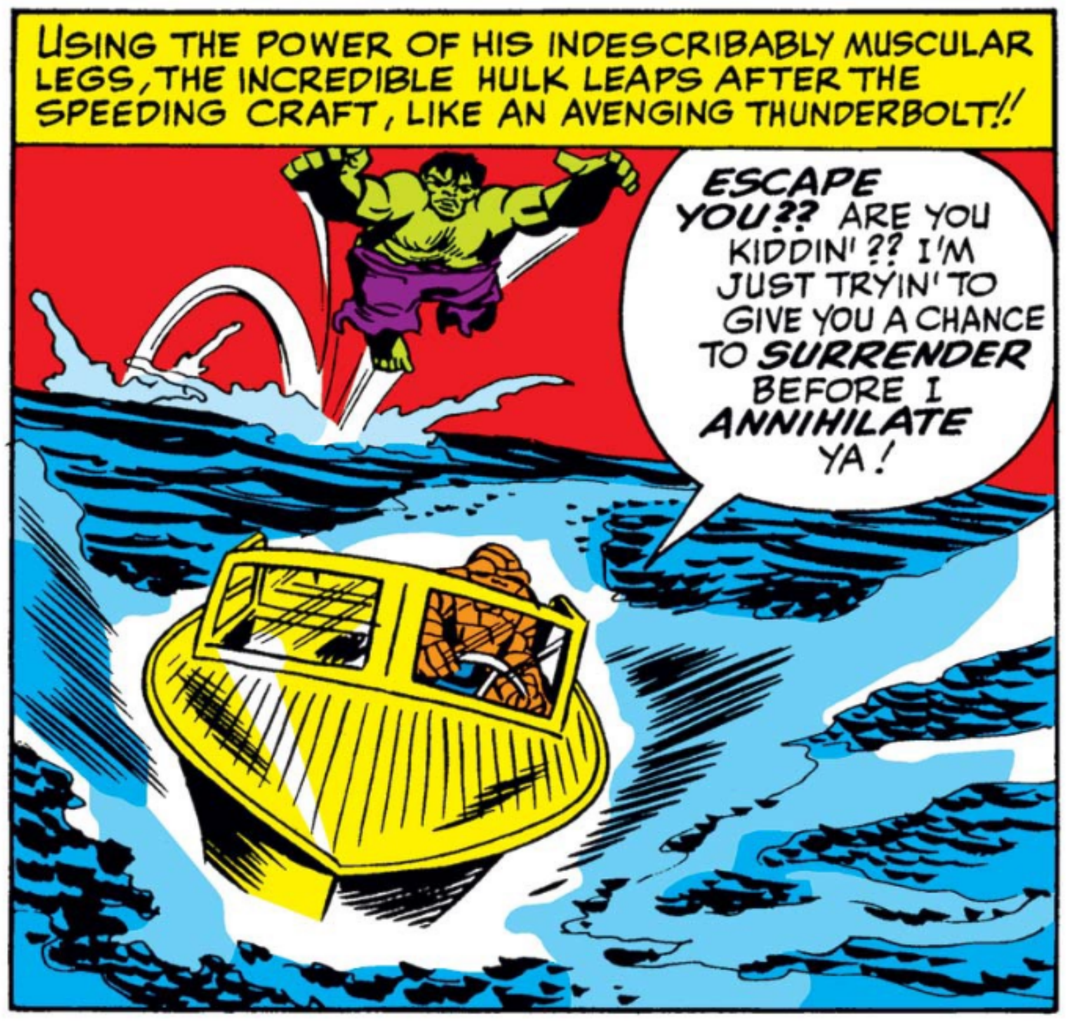

DON'T SHOOT!! YOU'LL HIT THE THING!
ALERT ALL UNITS! THEY ARE HEADED FOR THE HUDSON RIVER!

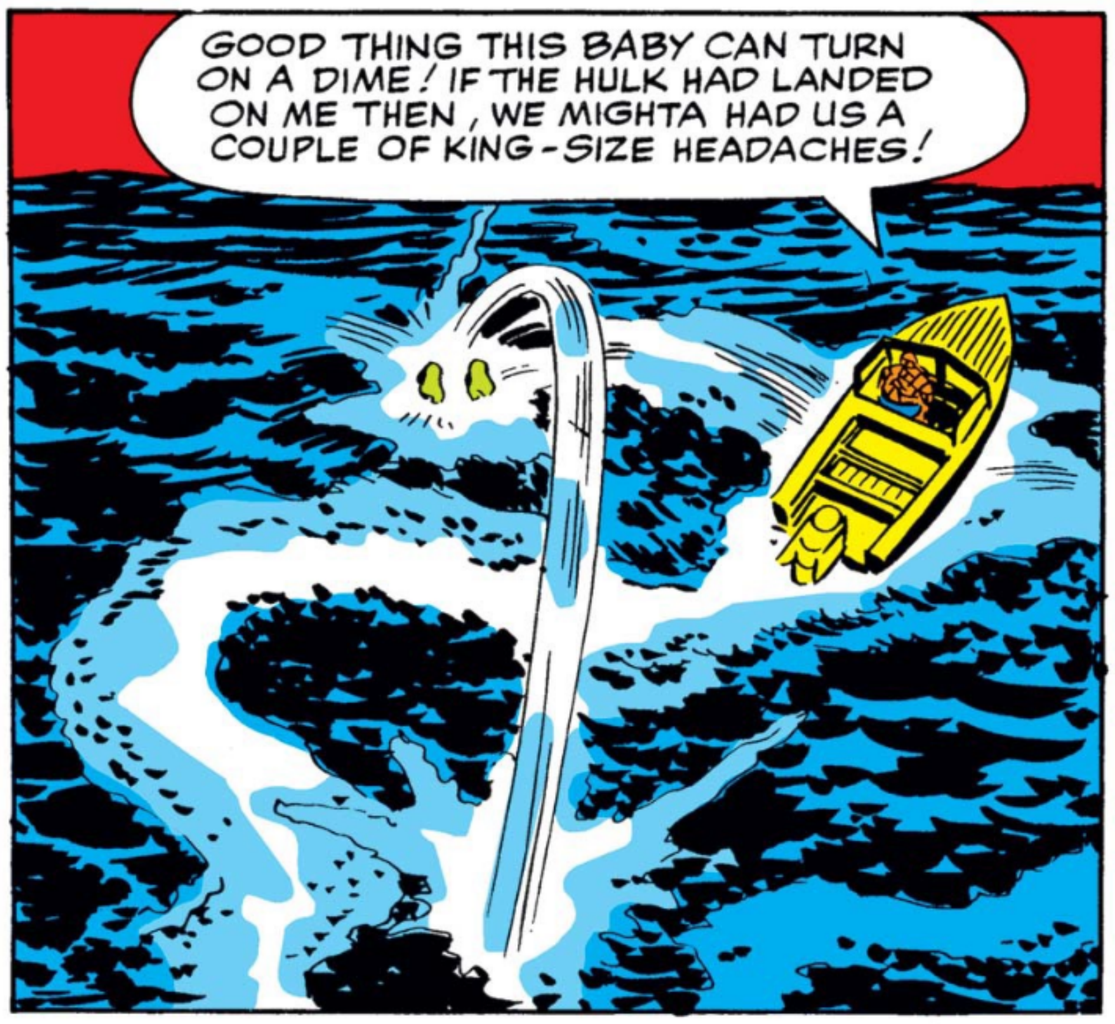

AND, AS THE RUNAWAY VEHICLE CAREENS OFF THE PIER, THE TWO BATTLING POWERHOUSES PLUNGE INTO THE WATERY DEPTHS.....

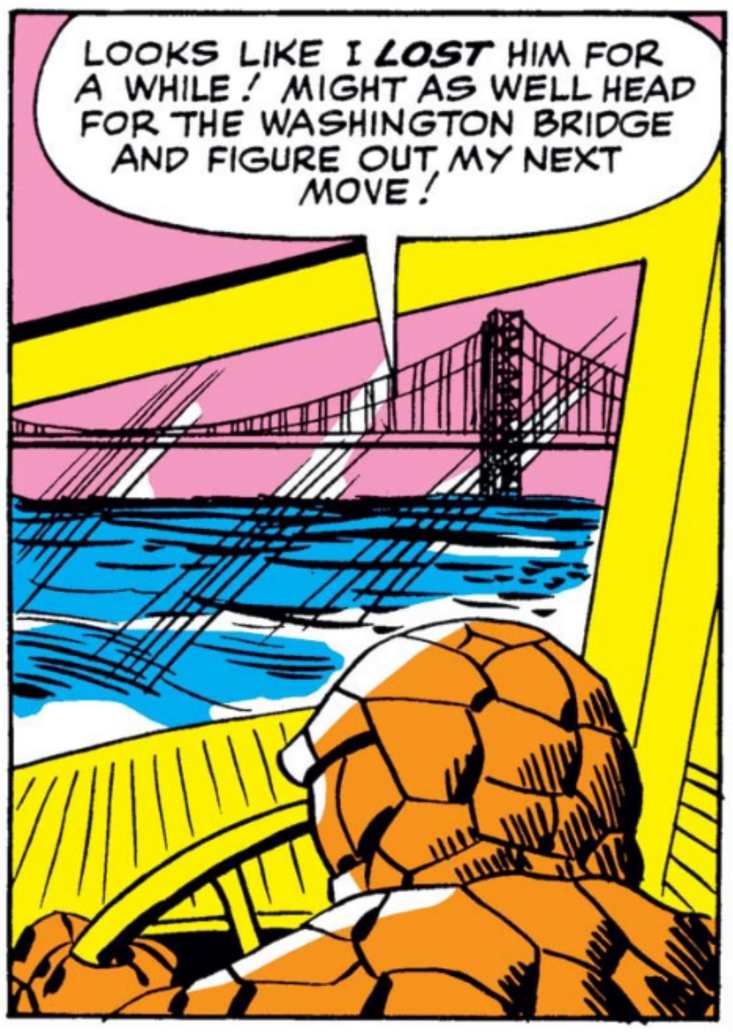

THE HULK'S TRYIN' TO HOLD ME UNDER!! HE KNOWS HIS LUNGS ARE STRONGER THAN MINE... HE CAN GO WITHOUT AIR LONGER...I'VE GOTTA BUST LOOSE!!
JUST TIME FOR ONE FAST JUDO BLOW... IT'S GOT TO WORK... HERE GOES!!

MADE IT! BUT HE AIN'T GONNA HANG AROUND AND APPLAUD! I'VE GOT TO REACH THE SURFACE BEFORE HE GRABS ME AGAIN!

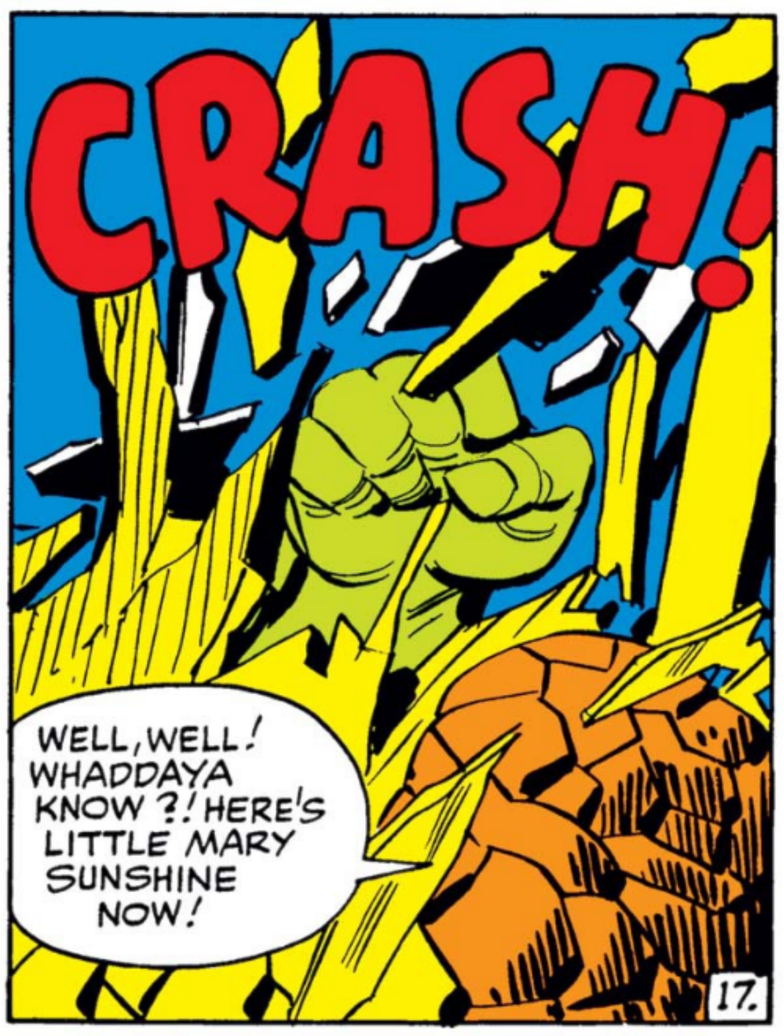
BOY! GOOD THING I'M LIGHTER AND FASTER! HEY! THIS LITTLE HONEY IS JUST WHAT I NEED!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME THAT WAY, THING!


USING THE POWER OF HIS INDESCRIBABLY MUSCULAR LEGS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK LEAPS AFTER THE SPEEDING CRAFT, LIKE AN AVENGING THUNDERBOLT!!
ESCAPE YOU?? ARE YOU KIDDIN'?? I'M JUST TRYIN' TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO SURRENDER BEFORE I ANNIHILATE YA!


GOOD THING THIS BABY CAN TURN ON A DIME! IF THE HULK HAD LANDED ON ME THEN, WE MIGHTA HAD US A COUPLE OF KING-SIZE HEADACHES!


LOOKS LIKE I LOST HIM FOR A WHILE! MIGHT AS WELL HEAD FOR THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE AND FIGURE OUT MY NEXT MOVE!

HE'S NOT BEHIND ME! WONDER WHAT HE'S COOKIN' UP?! MAYBE HE WENT BACK FOR HIS WATER SKIIS!

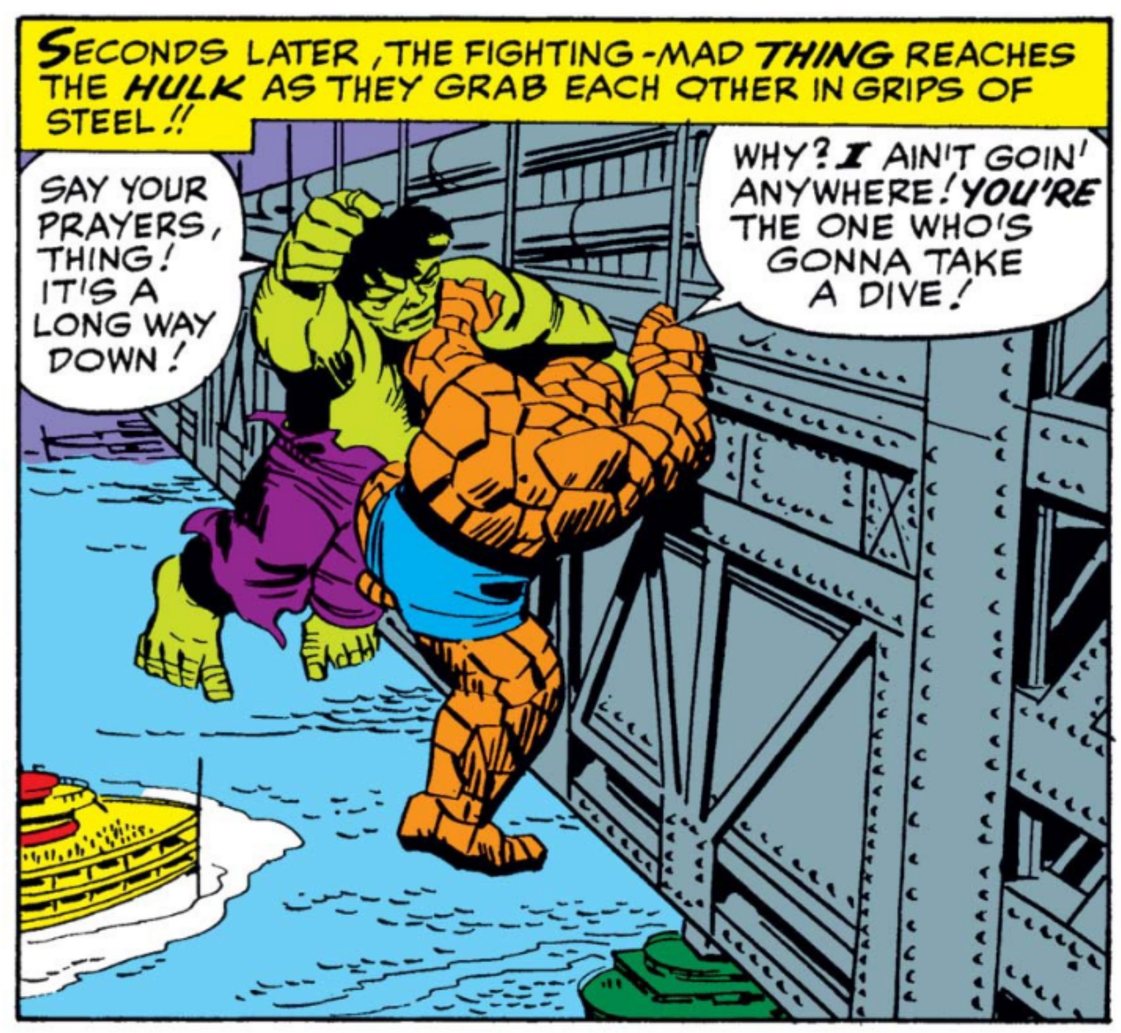

CRASH!
WELL, WELL! WHADDAYA KNOW?! HERE'S LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE NOW!

COME BACK, YOU SNIVELLIN' COWARD! WE'LL FINISH THIS OFF RIGHT HERE!
WE'LL FINISH IT, ALL RIGHT! BUT I'LL PICK THE SPOT... AND IT WON'T BE THE WATER!

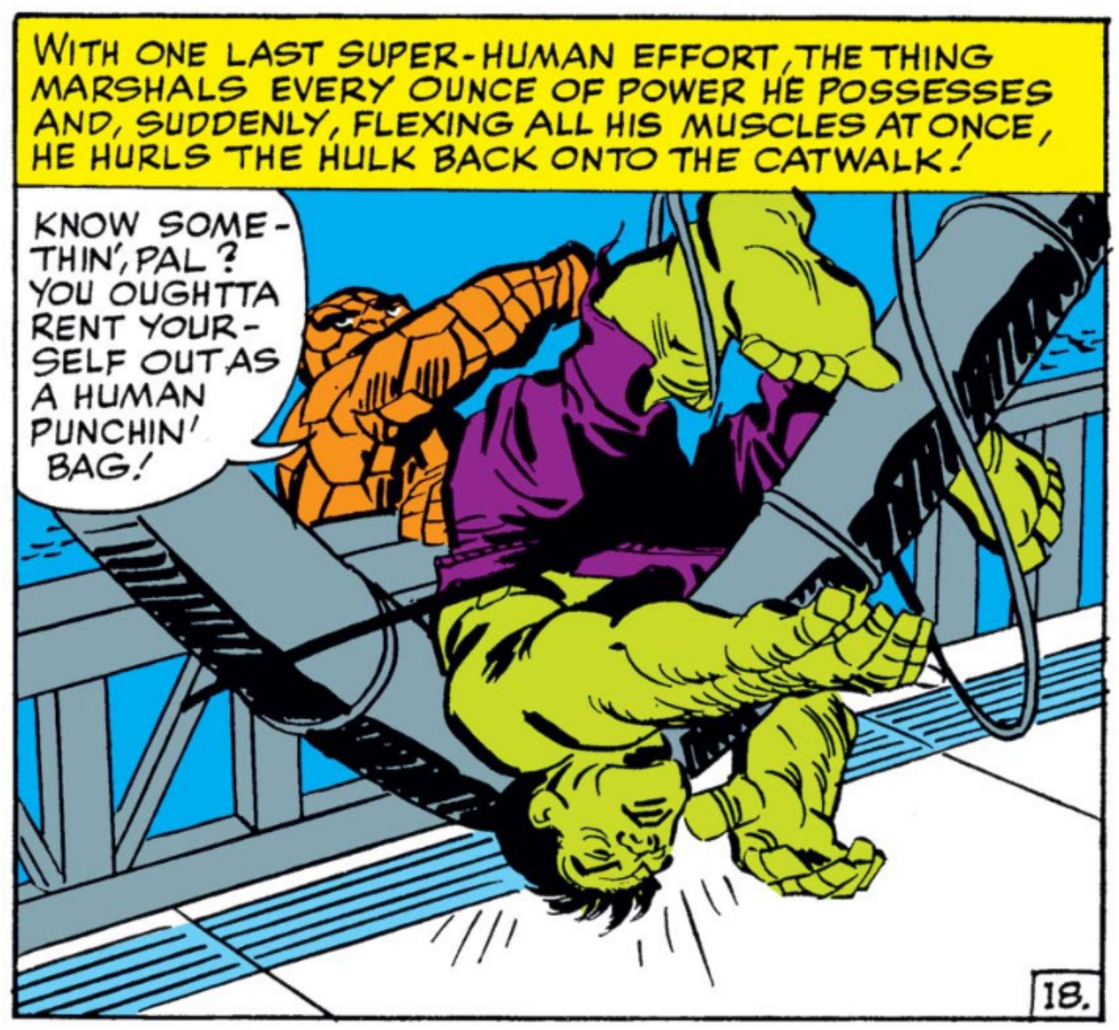
ALL RIGHT, THEN... THE BRIDGE SUITS ME FINE!! BUT THERE'S A FAST WAY TO REACH THE TOP... MUCH FASTER THAN BY CLIMBING UP!

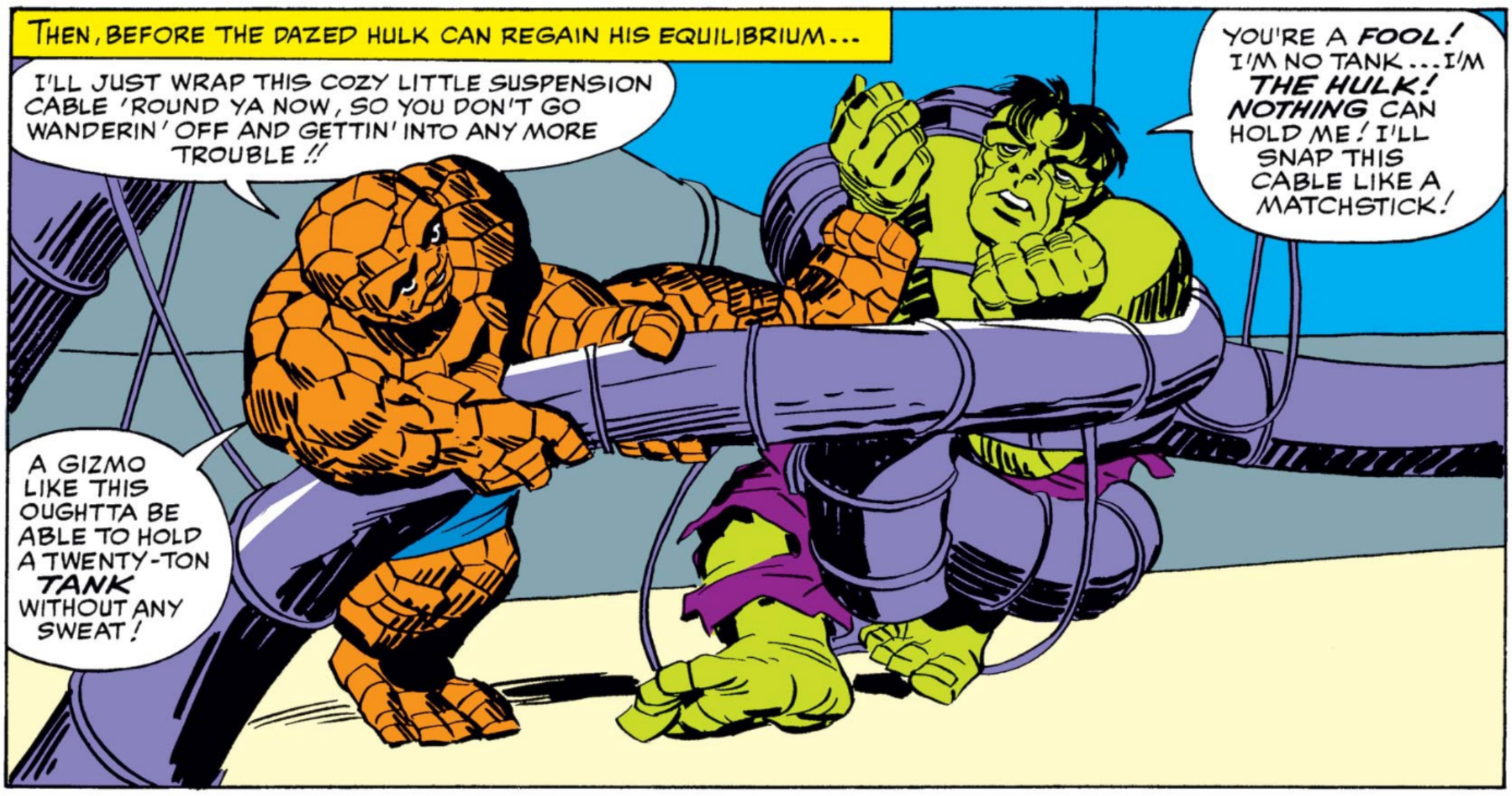
I WAS HOPIN' YOU'D DO THAT! NOW HANG ON, BUSTER... BECAUSE THIS IS IT!

HERE'S A FEW GOODIES FOR YA TO CHEW ON SO YOU DON'T GET BORED TILL I GET THERE!


SECONDS LATER, THE FIGHTING-MAD THING REACHES THE HULK AS THEY GRAB EACH OTHER IN GRIPS OF STEEL!!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, THING! IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!
WHY? I AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GONNA TAKE A DIVE!

BUT SLOWLY, STEADILY, WITH EVER-INCREASING PRESSURE, THE HULK'S MIGHTY ARMS FORCE THE THING BACK... BACK... UNTIL...
I'VE BEEN RELAXIN' TILL NOW, CUDDLES... SAVIN' MY STRENGTH! AND HERE'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO WITH IT!

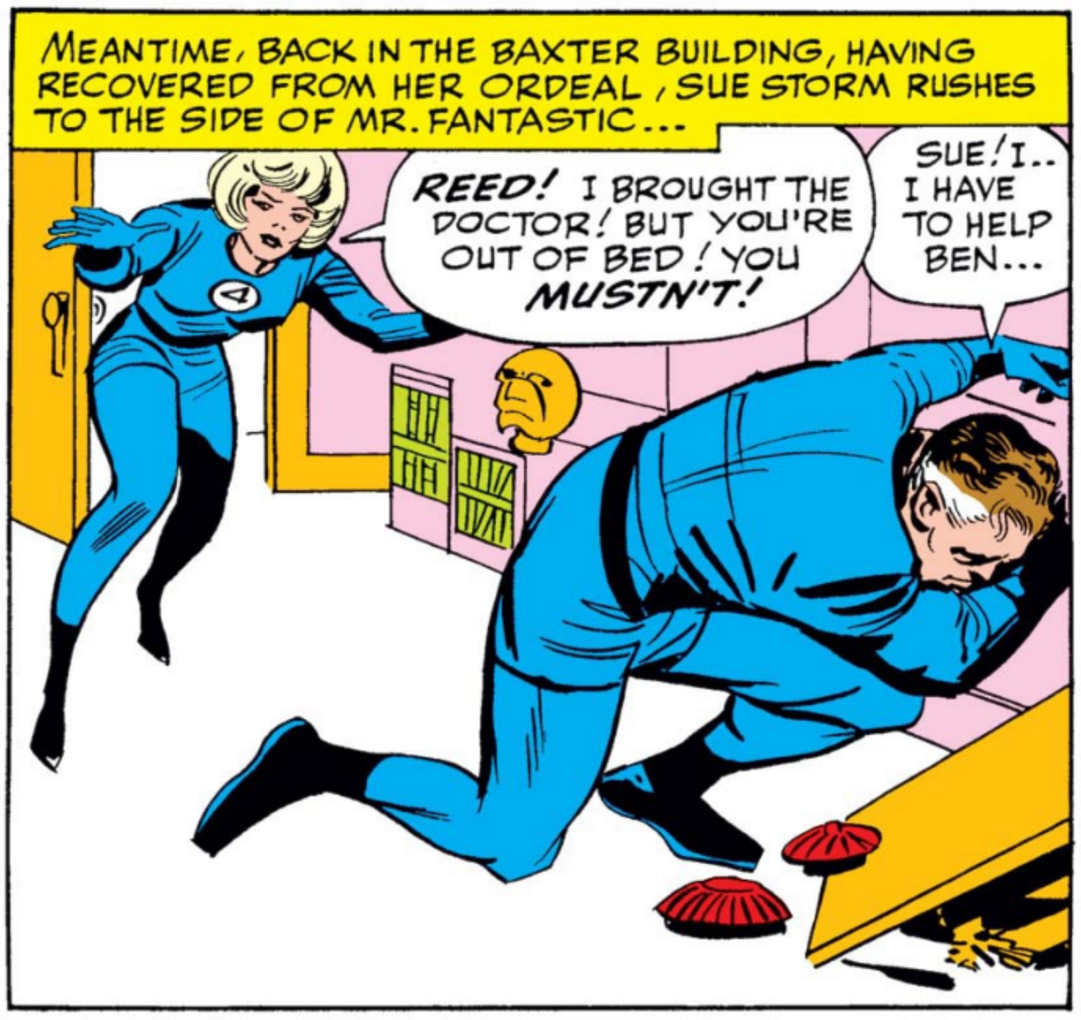

WITH ONE LAST SUPER-HUMAN EFFORT, THE THING MARSHALS EVERY OUNCE OF POWER HE POSSESSES AND, SUDDENLY, FLEXING ALL HIS MUSCLES AT ONCE, HE HURLS THE HULK BACK ONTO THE CATWALK!
KNOW SOMETHIN', PAL? YOU OUGHTTA RENT YOURSELF OUT AS A HUMAN PUNCHIN' BAG!

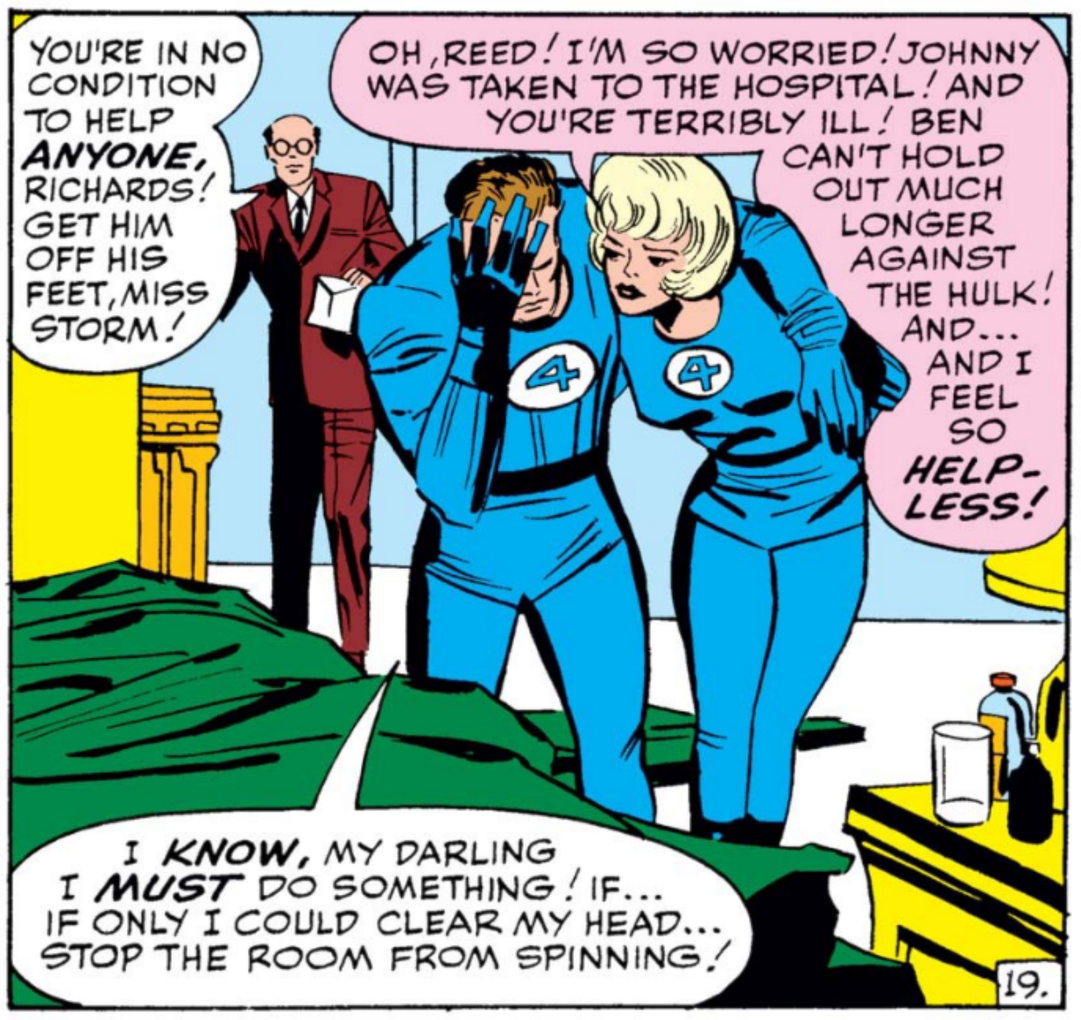

THEN, BEFORE THE DAZED HULK CAN REGAIN HIS EQUILIBRIUM...
I'LL JUST WRAP THIS COZY LITTLE SUSPENSION CABLE 'ROUND YA NOW, SO YOU DON'T GO WANDERIN' OFF AND GETTIN' INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE !!
YOU'RE A FOOL! I'M NO TANK... I'M THE HULK! NOTHING CAN HOLD ME! I'LL SNAP THIS CABLE LIKE A MATCHSTICK!
A GIZMO LIKE THIS OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO HOLD A TWENTY-TON TANK WITHOUT ANY SWEAT!

THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE, 'CAUSE I CAUGHT HIM OFF-BALANCE! HE CAN'T GET THE RIGHT LEVERAGE TO USE HIS MUSCLES! BUT EVEN SO, HE'S BEGINNIN' TO BEND THE CABLE!

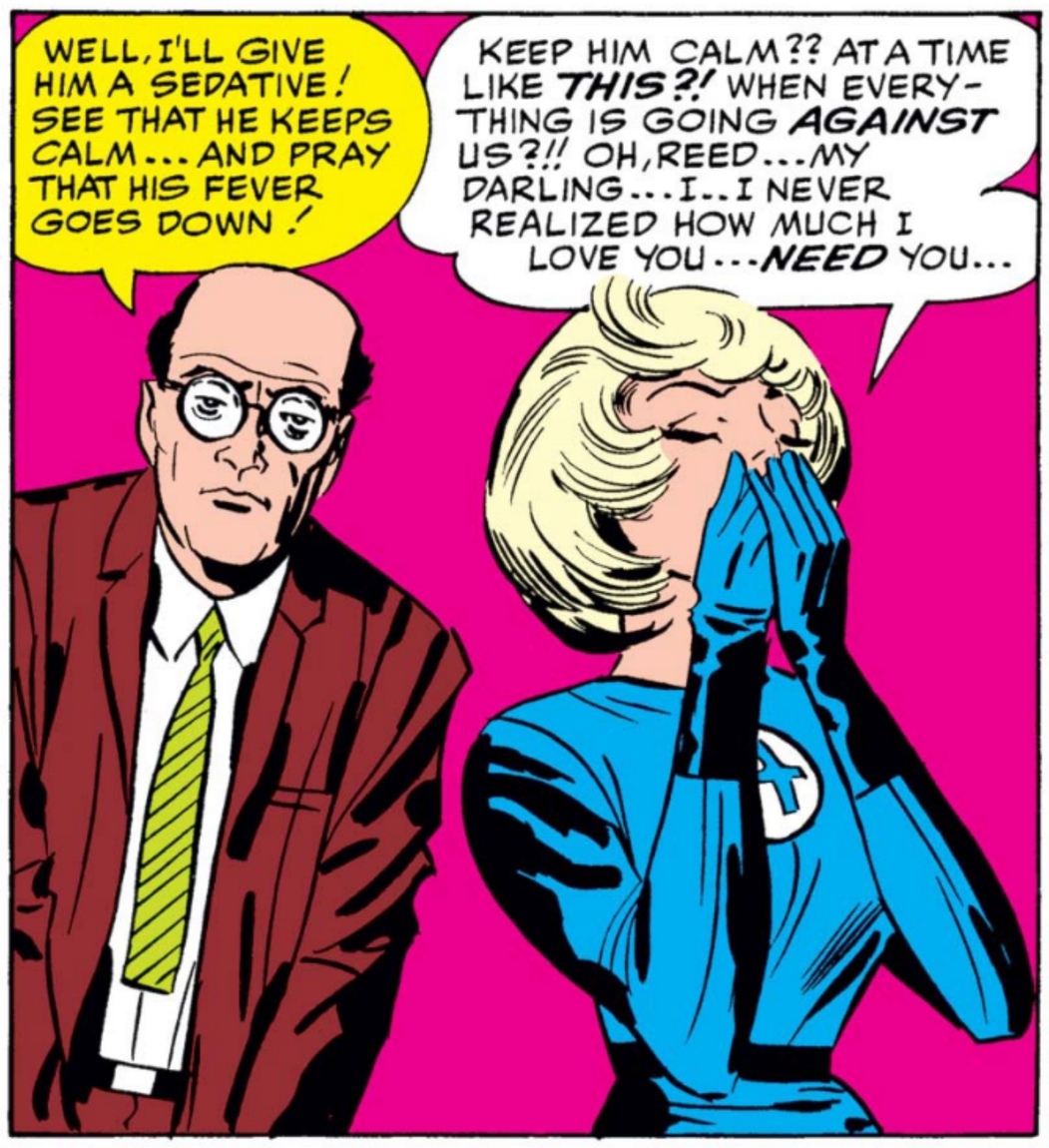
CAN'T HANG ON MUCH LONGER! TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN! GETTIN' WEAK... TIRED... BUT HE'S STRONGER THAN EVER! HOW DOES HE DO IT?!

HE'S INCREASIN' THE PRESSURE! I'LL HAVETA LET GO... I-I'M ACHIN' ALL OVER! BUT... HOW'LL I STOP HIM ONCE HE GETS LOOSE AGAIN? HE GETS STRONGER EVERY MINUTE!!


MEANTIME, BACK IN THE BAXTER BUILDING, HAVING RECOVERED FROM HER ORDEAL, SUE STORM RUSHES TO THE SIDE OF MR. FANTASTIC...
REED! I BROUGHT THE DOCTOR! BUT YOU'RE OUT OF BED! YOU MUSTN'T!
SUE! I.. I HAVE TO HELP BEN...

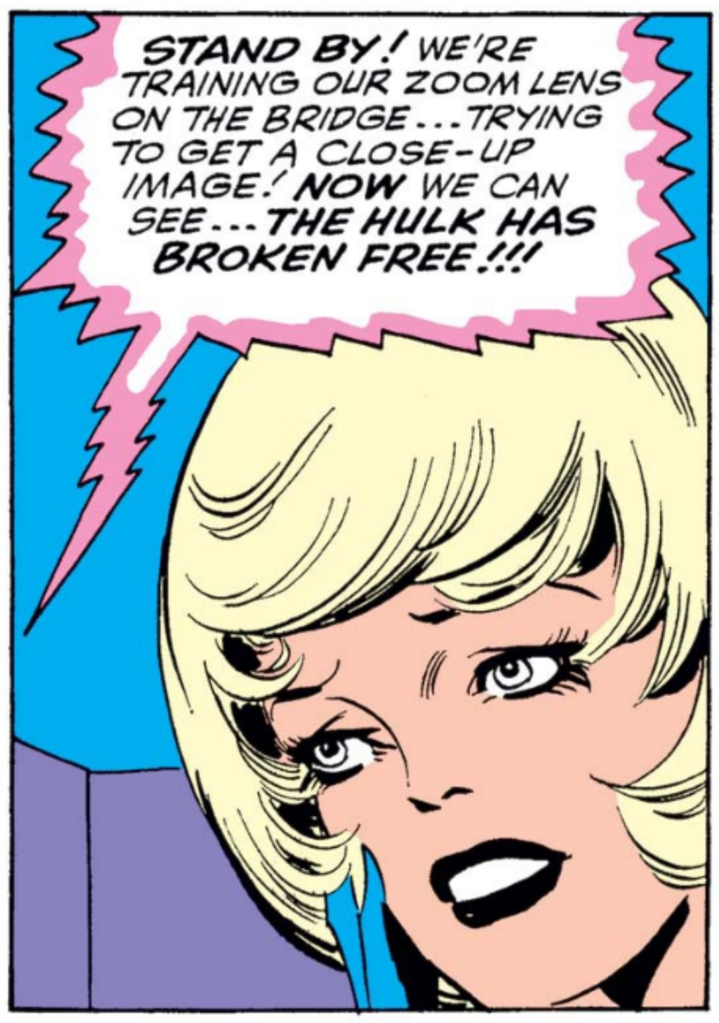

YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO HELP ANYONE, RICHARDS! GET HIM OFF HIS FEET, MISS STORM!
OH, REED! I'M SO WORRIED! JOHNNY WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL! AND YOU'RE TERRIBLY ILL! BEN CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER AGAINST THE HULK! AND... AND I FEEL SO HELP-LESS!
I KNOW, MY DARLING I MUST DO SOMETHING! IF... IF ONLY I COULD CLEAR MY HEAD... STOP THE ROOM FROM SPINNING!

MISS STORM...HE IS THE VICTIM OF SOME UNKNOWN VIRUS! THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM NOW! HE NEEDS COMPLETE REST! I WARNED HIM AGAINST WORKING WITH THOSE STRANGE MICROBES, THOSE UNTESTED FORMULAE...
HE ONLY DID IT FOR THE THING! HE WANTED TO HELP HIM...TO ENABLE HIM TO BECOME BEN GRIMM AT WILL!


WELL, I'LL GIVE HIM A SEDATIVE! SEE THAT HE KEEPS CALM...AND PRAY THAT HIS FEVER GOES DOWN!
KEEP HIM CALM?? AT A TIME LIKE THIS?! WHEN EVERYTHING IS GOING AGAINST US?!! OH, REED...MY DARLING...I..I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU...NEED YOU...

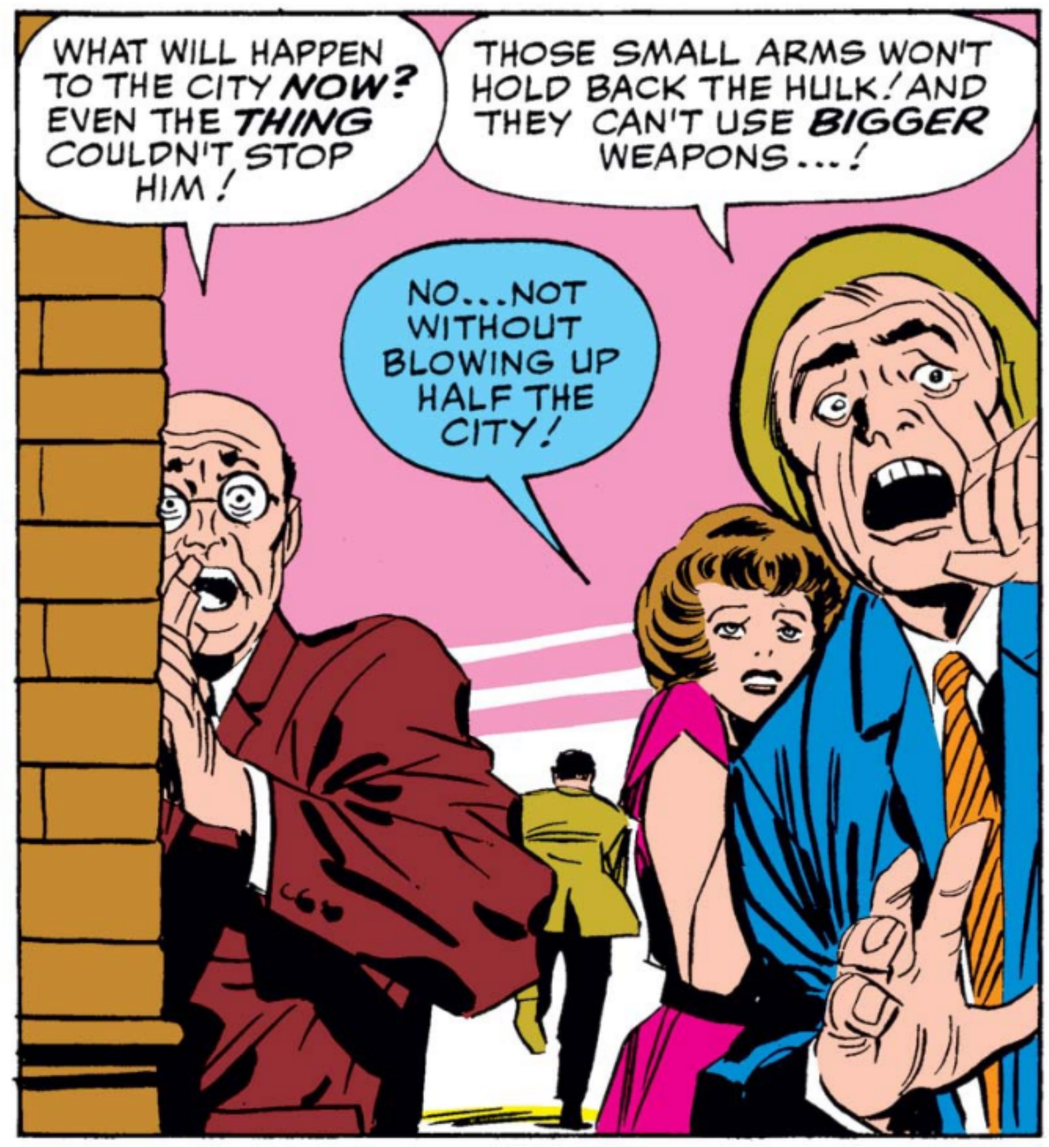
I'VE GOT TO GO NOW! WITH THE HULK STILL AT LARGE, THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE I'LL BE NEEDED NEXT!
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN! THE THING IS STILL BATTLING HIM! I'LL TURN ON THE T.V....ALTHOUGH I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO FIND OUT!

...THE BATTLE IS STILL RAGING ATOP THE WASHINGTON BRIDGE...BUT ALTHOUGH THE THING IS FIGHTING VALIANTLY, HE SEEMS TO BE WEAKENING... WAIT... SOMETHING IS HAPPENING!


STAND BY! WE'RE TRAINING OUR ZOOM LENS ON THE BRIDGE...TRYING TO GET A CLOSE-UP IMAGE! NOW WE CAN SEE...THE HULK HAS BROKEN FREE!!!

CAN'T KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ANY LONGER! GOT TO STOP...REST MY ARMS...JUST FOR A MINUTE...
AND NOW TO FINISH WHAT I STARTED!!

I'VE MORE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO!! I'LL TEAR THE CITY APART, BRICK BY BRICK IF I HAVE TO, TO FIND THE AVENGERS!! AND NOW... THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN STOP ME!!



THINK YOU'VE SEEN ACTION AND DRAMA SO FAR? WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE WRAP-UP NEXT ISH!! THE ENRAGED THING TACKLES THE BERSERK HULK AGAIN...AND, FOR ADDED THRILLS, THE AVENGERS JOIN THE BATTLE! IT'S MERELY THE GREATEST!!